

Families of Palestinian police to return

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said on Tuesday Israel will allow the return home of tens of thousands of relatives of a Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) force under Israel's peace deal with the Benjamin Netanyahu government. Rightist opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu slammed the step as indirect recognition of Palestinian demands that Arabs who fled or were expelled from Israel in the past be granted the right of return. "It is acceptable to me that immediate relatives (of the Palestinian policemen) will come," Mr. Rabin told reporters. "In the Gaza Strip there are more than 750,000 Palestinians. In my view another 20-30,000 will not change a thing." Israel and the PLO last week agreed to details of the Gaza Strip and a West Bank enclave around Jericho. A total of 2,000 police are to be recruited from Gaza and Jericho, 6,000 will come from outside the territories when the agreement is signed, and another 1,000 from outside three months later, negotiators of both sides said last week.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الراي

Volume 18 Number 5592

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 1994, THU AL QE'DEH 9, 1414

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Israel asks Britain to outlaw Hamas

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel has asked London to outlaw Hamas blamed for the two car bombs that killed 12 Israelis this month, Israel Television reported. In its request, Israel said that Hamas is concealing its activity on British soil by hiding behind Muslim charitable and welfare organisations, the report said. The foreign ministry said it had no knowledge of such a request. A spokesman for the Home Office in London, speaking on condition of anonymity, said English law does not allow banning of organisations outside those dealing with Northern Ireland. He added that the practice was to act against individuals rather than banning organisations.

Woman in Kuwait kills housemaid

KUWAIT (R) — A woman in Kuwait killed her housemaid by striking her on the head with a sharp object, the English-language Arab Times reported on Tuesday. The brief report did not give the nationalities of either woman. It said the incident happened in an apartment in Kuwait City's Salmiya area. An Interior Ministry official said by telephone he understood that an incident of the kind reported by the newspaper had happened and that it was being investigated. But he said he would not have any details before Wednesday.

Police kill militant; arrest 2 in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Police shot dead a wanted militant and arrested two others Tuesday in southern Egypt, police said. Mokhtar Kamel, 22, was killed in an exchange of fire in the town of Manfalout, 300 kilometres south of Cairo, said Magdi Basiouni, security chief of Assiut province. Kamel, who was wanted for killing a policeman in 1992, was shot to death and his two companions arrested as they sought to escape a police stakeout, security officials said. The three were spotted Monday by police doing extra patrols since officials were to pass through Manfalout as part of celebrations for Egypt's triumph over the 1798 French invasion.

Jailed Iranian editor released on bail

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iranian journalist, imprisoned by the Tehran government for unknown reasons eight months ago, has been released on bail. Abbas Abdi, an editor with the Farsi-language daily, Salam, was released on a bail of 100 million riyals (\$7,000). Mr. Abdi was arrested Aug. 28 while out driving with his family. The charges brought against him have not been made public. He was tried by the Revolutionary Court, following which he appealed to the Supreme Court. The latter did not "accept certain allegations made by the prosecutor general as crimes," the Times said.

Iran reports large drug haul

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian security forces have killed three drug traffickers in gun battles and seized seven tonnes of narcotics, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Tuesday. The agency said the drugs were seized from two "camel caravans" in south-eastern Sistan-Baluchistan province. IRNA quoted Brigadier General Mahmoud Japalaghi, head of the province's security forces, as saying his men seized 5,900 kilograms of drugs from the first caravan Monday, following a shootout in which three of the traffickers were killed. He said that 1,100 kilograms of drugs were seized in another raid Monday. Gen. Japalaghi said the raids were made near the border with Pakistan, from where the drugs were brought. He said about 100 kilograms (220 pounds) of the total haul, consisted of morphine, heroin and hashish. The rest was opium, he said. The Iranians, who blame their drug problems on neighbouring Pakistan and Afghanistan, report large drug hauls almost every week.

Oman water talks end with 'success'

Final statement passed after Jordan registers protest against Aqaba siege

MUSCAT (AP) — Arabs, Israelis and experts from around the world Tuesday ended a Middle East water-sharing conference, reporting groundbreaking progress in their effort to eliminate a potential source of conflict in the region.

A final statement, read by John H. Herbst, a U.S. State Department envoy, said the three-day meeting, at which the Israelis made their first public appearance in a Gulf Arab state, was "very successful."

He said the delegates "broke new ground by agreeing to a number of concrete proposals" for cooperating in water conservation, the use of the existing resources and the introduction of modern methods to help alleviate what experts fear

could become a flashpoint for conflict in the area.

The conference is part of the multilateral talks, launched within the framework of the Arab-Israeli peace process two and a half years ago.

The talks, which are sponsored by the United States and Russia, are aimed at securing coordination in five main spheres while the key Mideast adversaries, Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians work on settling their political differences.

Other topics being tackled in the multilaterals include disarmament, environment, economic development and refugees.

The final statement was delayed for six hours because when Mr. Herbst asked the delegate to endorse it. The

Jordanian delegate, who attended the conference as an observer, objected, saying he wanted the United States to address its demands for lifting the siege on Aqaba.

Mr. Herbst then escorted the Jordanian delegate, Ali Ghazzawi, to the conference centre's coffee shop where they were seen by reporters talking for hours.

At the next meeting, Jordan did not voice any reservations. Asked about the Jordanian issue, Mr. Herbst said: "The working group worked on the basis of a consensus and the working group is satisfied it got a consensus."

Jordan had said Mr. Ghazzawi was attending only as an

(Continued on page 3)

Israeli army detains over 400 in sweep

Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists targeted

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers and undercover agents arrested over 400 Palestinians linked to the organisations that carried out a series of suicide attacks that killed 13 Israelis, the army reported Tuesday.

Scores of younger members and some senior leaders were rounded up overnight throughout the occupied territories, with more than 200 taken in the Gaza Strip and 200 plus from the West Bank, an army spokesman said.

"The aim was a severe blow at the operational structure of Hamas to disrupt their operations," said Colonel Renaan Gissin, an army spokesman.

"The concentrated effort last night was to send a clear message to Hamas that we will not let go of them and won't tolerate such activities," he said.

He said those arrested were from every level of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas; its armed underground cells called the Izzedine Al Qassam Brigades as well as the Islamic Jihad Organisation.

The army also claimed it captured weapons and ammunition, but refused to

give specific details. Palestinian sources said troops and plainclothes intelligence agents in Gaza broke into houses and rounded up supporters of Hamas into buses.

The group had killed 12 Israelis in two bombings inside Israel this month and vowed more killings in revenge for a mosque massacre in the West Bank town of Hebron in February.

"We will fight those who continue terror with all the means that are available to us. The only limitation is the limitation of the law," Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told reporters who asked about the clampdown on Hamas.

In the Gaza Strip more than 200 Hamas supporters were known to have been arrested. About 30 were detained in the southern town of Rafah, 15 in Jabalya camp, 75 in Gaza City and dozens more in each of the towns of Khan Younis and Deir Al Balah.

In Hebron, sources said about 25 Hamas backers were detained, including two prominent personalities. Residents of the West Bank city of Ramallah said security

forces detained six Hamas supporters who were among hundreds Israel expelled for a year to South Lebanon in December 1992.

Tuesday's operations brought the number of Hamas supporters arrested in the aftermath of the bombings to about 400, including 120 arrested in Jenin in the West Bank since last week.

The sources said those arrested in Gaza belonged to three major categories. Some had been detained in the past for links to Hamas and others were relatives of suspected guerrillas from the Al Qassam Brigades. A third group included relatives of prominent Hamas supporters.

A few were young professionals, but none were known to occupy high positions in the movement. The sources said troops also broke into other houses but did not find their quarries.

The two prominent personalities in Hebron both represent Muslim fundamentalists in a cross-party Palestinian committee handling relief for the town of 110,000 people, which has been under strict curfew since the Feb. 25 massacre.

PLO: Israel reneging on prisoner timetable

CAIRO (R) — A Palestinian delegate said Tuesday that Israel had reneged on the timetable for releasing 5,000 Palestinian prisoners, possibly throwing a spanner in the works at negotiations on Palestinian rule in Gaza and Jericho.

A source close to the talks said the two sides were also deadlocked on negotiations over a map of Gaza outlining areas of Israeli control and Palestinian access to the coast.

The PLO delegate, who asked not to be named, said the Israelis were now saying they could include only 4,000 prisoners in the timetable fixed at last week's talks in Cairo.

Under the original timetable, Israel was to set free 2,500 of the prisoners as soon as they sign a self-rule agreement and another 2,500 three weeks later.

"Now they say the 1,000 have been sentenced in court and they can't release them until they see the Palestinians have tightened their control (of Gaza and Jericho)," he said. Israeli sources said the 1,000 prisoners had committed security crimes and that their

extended detention was connected with two suicide attacks this month in which members of Hamas killed 12 Israelis.

While the two sides struggled in Cairo to reach a deal on the prisoners, Israeli security forces rounded up several hundred Hamas supporters in huge pre-dawn sweeps in Gaza and the West Bank town of Hebron.

The Cairo talks must also resolve disagreements over a map of Gaza, agreed by the two sides in February but regarded by the Palestinians as merely a draft.

"This is the most troublesome issue," the source close to the talks said.

Palestinians say the map gives Israeli control of all the coast, leaving them only a passage for commerce. They say Israel refuses to allow Palestinian naval patrol boats and coastguards.

A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said last week Israelis also want full access and control of a "yellow zone" — agricultural land around Jewish settlements. The land totalling about 40 square kilometres is

considered Palestinian property but the Israelis want full use of it for security purposes.

Chief PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath left Tuesday's talks after less than one hour and went to consult PLO executive committee member Mahmoud Abbas.

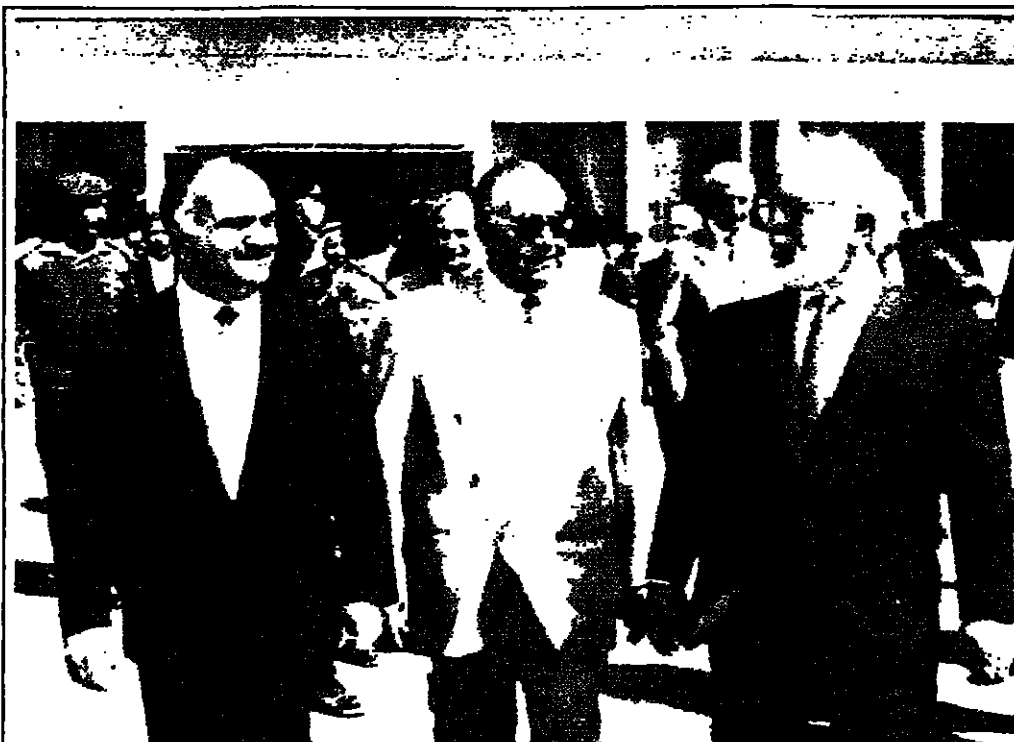
He later returned to the talks at a Cairo hotel but declined to speak to reporters. Sources said the mood was tense.

An Israeli delegate was more optimistic. "We are moving slowly but we are moving. The talks are steady but there are no breakthroughs yet," he told reporters in the morning.

The prisoners have become one of the major obstacles to agreement in the talks, which are now in their fifth month.

"Forget all the other committees. The most important for us and our people in the occupied territories is the release of the prisoners," PLO negotiator Mohammad Dahlan told reporters.

The Palestinians want Israel to give a firm timetable for setting free all 8,500 prisoners, including Hamas supporters.



King leaves on private visit to Britain

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday left for the United Kingdom, where he will undergo medical checks on his left ear. The King was seen off at Amman airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah and Prince Ali and several royal family members in addition to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, the speakers of the Upper and Lower House of Parliament, the chief chamberlain, senior civil and military officials and the British ambassador to Jordan. The King is accompanied by

Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's advisor Yanal Hikmat and Jordan's ambassador to the U.K. The Crown Prince was sworn in to serve as Regent during His Majesty's absence.

An official said the Monarch might meet with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and other officials during his stay in London. "His Majesty will brief British officials on the latest developments in the Middle East peace process," said the official, quoted by the Associated Press.

Regent urges boosted ties with Israeli Arabs

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday called for bolstering relations between the Arabs of Palestinian land occupied by Israel in 1948 and the Arab and Islamic nations.

In a speech at a lunch banquet hosted in honour of delegations from the occupied West Bank and Gaza and Israeli Arabs who attended the Kingdom's celebrations marking the completion of renovation work at the Dome of the Rock Mosque in Jerusalem, Prince Hassan said the completion of renovation works prove that righteousness will eventually triumph, calling for highlighting "the moral right of Arabs and Muslims to historical Palestine."

The Regent pointed to the violations of human rights in the occupied Palestinian lands, the separation of Jerusalem from the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the confiscation of Palestinian lands.

Prince Hassan called for ending the war in the Balkans and the use of the word "radicalism" to describe Muslims, stressing that this wrong should come to an end and reminding that about 80 per cent of the world's refugees are Muslims.

The call for understanding Arabs and Muslims should continue "and we have to agree with the world conscience, and I do not necessarily say the official conscience, that what is taking place in the Holy City is a clear criteria for the will of peoples to co-exist and integrate."

Diversity and respect for religious and cultural rights and material integration of all interests and all people are among the fruits of peace, he said.

Prince Hassan said Jordan supports any initiative that would lead to more contacts between the Jordanian people and Palestinians in the occupied territories, pointing to an invitation to the audience to attend the establishment of a branch of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research and another for the Al al-Bait University in Jerusalem.

The Crown Prince said that Jordan adheres to the political principles regarding the Palestine question, adding that His Majesty King Hussein stressed in his Monday's address that Jordan will continue to support the Palestinian people and cause.

Bomb explodes in Tehran

TEHRAN (Agencies) — A bomb destroyed a parked car at a busy intersection in central Tehran on Tuesday morning, injuring passers-by. Tehran Radio blamed saboteurs sent from Iraq.

The injured included two women who were carrying children. Iran's official IRNA news agency said. They were taken to hospital.

Witnesses said the blast smashed the windows of a fruit shop, a supermarket, a tailor's shop and a stationery store on the corner of Saadi and Enqelab avenues.

The car which was blown up was parked near pillars supporting an overpass but the structure was undamaged. Tehran Radio said several passing cars were damaged.

"Reliable security sources say the Iraqi regime has recently sent four bombers to Iran and today's blast was carried out by these saboteurs," the radio said. It gave no other details.

Iran has blamed Iraqi agents for explosions in Tehran and other cities in the past, including big truck bombs which killed scores of people in the capital in the 1980s.

The bombings started soon after the 1979 Islamic revolution and peaked during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Some two hours after the blast about 20 policemen and soldiers were standing around the intersection but traffic on the overpass and on the street was back to its normal, heavy flow.

IRNA said no group had claimed responsibility for the attack, the second bombing in the capital this year.

Small bombs exploded on Jan. 13 in two garage bins in Ferdowsi Square.

Lebanon plans to put two Iraqi diplomats on trial

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon said on Tuesday it would follow up its rupture of diplomatic ties with Baghdad by putting two detained Iraqi diplomats on trial for the killing of an Iraqi dissident in Beirut last week.

Chief Public Prosecutor Munif Oweidat said the immunity of diplomats Mohammad Kathem and Khaled Khalaf, arrested after the assassination of Taleb Al Sabei on April 12, has been lifted as a result of the decision to sever ties with Iraq.

"Breaking off ties definitely means the lifting of immunity, thus the detainees will be tried in Lebanon," Mr. Oweidat told the official National News Agency.

The Syrian-backed Lebanese government cut ties with Baghdad on Monday and ordered Iraq's diplomatic mission to leave within 72 hours.

The secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, Zafir Al Hassan, relayed the orders to Iraqi Charge d'Affaires Awadh Fakhr on Tuesday.

Mr. Fakhr did not comment on plans to put the diplomats on trial, but told reporters Iraq observed international conventions and agreements between Baghdad and Beirut.

Witnesses said about 70 policemen, many in plain clothes, tightened a cordon round the Iraqi embassy.

Police surrounded the embassy last Wednesday after the arrest of the diplomats.

(Continued on page 3)

Serbs openly challenge U.N.

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serbs further humiliated the United Nations Tuesday, pounding civilians in Gorazde with a devastating artillery barrage and storming a U.N. weapons depot to seize 18 anti-aircraft guns.

In a bold display of military supremacy, some 100-150 armed Serbs raided Lukavica barracks in Sarajevo, taking back some of the heavy weapons they had turned in when a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) threat of air strikes forced them to withdraw guns from around Sarajevo.

The 30 French peacekeepers at the depot simply could not defend the weapons, said U.N. peacekeepers spokesman Major Eric Chaperon.

"They were simply overrun," he said. "If they had fired, it would have been a massacre."

Iran asserts right to use nuclear energy

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati on Tuesday defended his country's right to make use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, unlike nations endangering global security with lethal weapons programme. Tehran Television, monitored in Cyprus, quoted Mr. Velayati as saying "Iran is furious because of Israel's refusal to sign the non-proliferation treaty." In a meeting in Tehran with Hans Blix, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mr. Velayati said, "Global peace and security is being endangered by some manufacturers of nuclear weapons." Mr. Blix, who arrived in Tehran Monday on a two-day visit, said his agency was satisfied with the way Iranian officials had cooperated with IAEA inspectors in the past. Iranian news reports have not given the reason for Mr. Blix's visit, or said whether he would be inspecting any nuclear facilities. The television said Monday Mr. Blix would "discuss cooperation between the IAEA and the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran."

Christopher may visit Mideast next week

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is considering a visit to the Middle East next week to push Arab-Israeli peace talks forward, the State Department said Monday.

Department spokesman Mike McCurry said there were plans for Mr. Christopher to visit the region next week, although there was no final decision or detailed itinerary. "We're in very close touch with the parties in the region about an itinerary," Mr. McCurry said.

He said Mr. Christopher could decide to make the trip even if Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) failed to wrap up an agreement on an Israeli withdrawal from Jericho and the Gaza Strip by then.

Mr. Christopher had hoped to be on hand for an Israeli-PLO signing ceremony but the talks are dragging. Israeli and PLO negotiators are meeting in Cairo over details of an Israeli amnesty for Palestinian prisoners.

The United States is anxious to resume separate Israeli-Syrian, Jordanian and Lebanese peace talks.

Oman leads Gulf Arabs in contacts with Israel

By Youssef Azme
Reuters

MUSCAT — The Sultanate of Oman, at the eastern edge of the Arab World, has taken the lead in recognising publicly that the peace process launched in Madrid in 1991 means eventual Arab cooperation with Israel, Western diplomats said.

A new round of multilateral negotiations on harnessing the Middle East's scarce water resources opened in Muscat on Sunday, bringing Israeli officials for the first time to a Gulf Arab state.

The diplomats said Oman's decision to take the lead in the Gulf was not surprising, but they noted that it did not mean diplomatic recognition of the Jewish state, an issue that remains dependent on Israel's progress in establishing peace with its immediate Arab neighbours.

They said the country under Sultan Qaboos for the past 24 years had consistently followed discreet and independent policies often at odds with the Arab consensus

or the views of partners in the Saudi-dominated Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Its minister of state for foreign affairs, Youssef Ben Alawi Ben Abdullah, said on Sunday a centre to be set up in Oman to research economic ways of making drinking water from the sea would be open to all states attending the Muscat talks.

This was a clear reference to possible Israeli participation as the Jewish state is at the cutting edge of desalination technology and has already offered to share its expertise.

"The Omanis see this as a logical extension of the peace process but they will continue to move cautiously and discreetly," one diplomat said.

Omani officials say the sultanate's distinctive foreign policy is born of realism, self-interest and a long-term perspective that does not pander to emotion and short-term concerns.

"They have always been slightly different from their neighbours... they do not follow the herd," another diplomat said.

Ben Alawi on Israel TV

A SENIOR OMANI official on Monday gave a rare interview to an Israeli television station during the first visit to a Gulf Arab state by an Israeli delegation.

Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Youssef Ben Alawi Ben Abdullah told Israel Television that the Arab Gulf states could establish ties with Israel only after the Jewish state achieved peace with neighbouring Arab countries, especially Syria.

"I think first there has to be real progress in the situation between Israel and its neighbours, especially Syria, so all in the area can feel there is a working peace agreement including withdrawal from the occupied lands of the Golan (Heights)," the minister said.

The diplomats said it was not surprising that the other Arab country that has reached a similar state in

relations with Israel is Morocco, which is at the western extreme of the Arab World.

Oman was one of only two Arab countries that did not cut diplomatic ties with Egypt after the late President Anwar Sadat made peace with Israel in 1979. Egypt remains the only Arab state officially at peace with Israel.

Oman maintained friendly ties with Iran throughout its 1980-88 war with Iraq when other Gulf Arabs openly backed Baghdad.

It did not cut ties with Baghdad after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait although it opened its military facilities to the Western allies who drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait.

Deputy Foreign Minister Youssef Beilin, who is leading the Israeli team at the Muscat session, has had contacts with senior Omani political and economic officials on the margins of the talks.

Neither side is ready at this stage to say who those officials are because Oman remains officially committed to the Arab economic boycott of Israel. It has already come

under fire from Syria for hosting the Israelis.

The Omani minister said on Sunday that present contacts with Israel should be seen in the framework of international Middle East cooperation involving all nations of the region.

Israelis travelling with Mr. Beilin say they are aware that by coming to Oman they were entering the Gulf by the back door.

"But it breaks the taboo. Others are soon to follow," one said.

Qatar, another independent-minded Gulf state, is due to host another set of multilateral next month, one of the five topic forums launched at the Madrid conference in parallel with direct negotiations between Israel and its immediate neighbours.

But diplomats said that Bahrain had also agreed to host yet another set in the autumn and Israelis expect the United Arab Emirates to follow suit later this year or next.

The other two members of the GCC are Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

3 U.N. personnel killed in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AP) — Two U.N. peacekeepers and a U.N. refugee official were killed in two separate incidents Monday. The United Nations also reported that \$3.9 million had been stolen from its Mogadishu headquarters.

The soldiers were killed in crossfire between militias of the Habre Gedir and Hawadle clans, which had been fighting since Saturday in the Somali capital of Mogadishu, said U.N. spokesman Major Chris Budge.

Several Somali sources said the fighting started as a dispute between two men over a loudspeaker and developed into a shooting battle between the rival clans.

The Nepalese soldiers who were killed were staffing an observation post near a strategic intersection connecting routes from U.N. headquarters to the airport and seaport. Their names were not immediately released.

In the southern town of Afmahu, the head of the town's mission of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees was killed by gunfire when militiamen shot at his plane as it touched down on the airstrip.

Alhaji Sanehe, 54, of Gambia, was hit in the head and died en route to the southern port city of Kismayu, about 60 kilometres to the southeast, said Millicent Mutuli, spokeswoman for the U.N. refugee office.

The militiamen were trying to prevent a worker for a Somali aid organisation from getting on the plane. The pilot and four other passengers on the plane were uninjured.

Mr. Mutuli said for the second time this year the refugee agency would evacuate its staff from Afmahu.

Meanwhile, Tom White, chief of technical services for the Somali U.N. mission, said the \$3.9 million was taken in a break-in that apparently occurred before dawn Sunday. An investigation was under way.

NEWS IN BRIEF

PLO staffers convicted for racketeering

TUNIS (AP) — A Tunisian court has sentenced four Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) employees to up to 10 years in prison for counterfeiting and illegally dealing in foreign currency, Palestinian sources said Monday. The convictions followed a series of arrests, and one killing linked to a racketeering network run by staffers at PLO headquarters in the Tunisian capital. The sources said a PLO bodyguard, identified only as Saeb, received a 10-year sentence, while seven-year terms were given to the remaining three: Manir and the A'ad Al Laham and an employee identified as Abu Arab. The A'ad Laham brothers were arrested this month after police found more than \$100,000 in fake banknotes in a raid on their home earlier this month. The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Abu Arab was working as a bodyguard to PLO representative in Germany Abdullah Frenji. He, too, had been found in the possession of counterfeit dollars. A fifth Palestinian, Riad Sadek, who was held on charges of being an accomplice and is to be tried on charges of trafficking in narcotics, the sources said. A sixth employee believed to have been involved in the racket, Khalil Abu Mosalek, was shot and killed in a shopping centre parking lot on April 1. Police arrested a suspect, identified as Jamal Salameh, codenamed Abu Khalid, as he tried to cross into Libya four days later, according to other PLO sources. Palestinians officials declined to comment on the cases or say if the employees will be handed over, as is customary, to the PLO for punishment.

Iran, Ukraine want expanded ties

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran and Ukraine called for better use of their mutual resources by boosting cooperation in various fields, Tehran Television reported. The broadcast, monitored in Cyprus, said the call came in a meeting in Tehran between Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoly Zlenko. Mr. Zlenko told Mr. Rafsanjani that the resources of the two countries provided a good foundation for closer cooperation, the television said. Mr. Rafsanjani called for the present level of cooperation to be boosted in the interests of the region and the world, the television said. It said in a message handed to Mr. Rafsanjani, Ukraine's president, Leonid Kravchuk, invited him for an official visit. Mr. Zlenko also met with Iran's oil minister, Gholamreza Azadeh, and discussed cooperation in oil and gas. Two years ago Ukraine agreed to buy four million to five million tonnes of crude oil a year from Iran and signed agreements to build pipelines to receive Iranian gas by mid-1995. Those agreements never got off the ground. Mr. Zlenko and Mr. Azadeh on Monday explored "ways of implementing earlier agreements," the television said. In a meeting late Sunday with his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati, Mr. Zlenko expressed hope that his visit would lead to new commercial agreements. He did not elaborate. Ukraine has been marketing former Soviet military aircraft and weapons systems at cut-rate prices in the Middle East. The Iranian armed forces operate several Soviet warplanes, missile systems and submarines.

New Lebanese envoy leaves for U.S.

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's new ambassador to the United States, Riad Tabbarah, left for Washington on Monday, saying his main task was to get Washington's ban on travel to Lebanon lifted. Mr. Tabbarah replaces ambassador Simon Karam, who resigned last year. The travel ban was imposed after the 1985 hijack of a Trans World Airlines jetliner to Beirut and the murder of one of its passengers. "I will try to rally the Lebanese community in the United States behind a drive to have that ban lifted now that the Lebanese civil war is over," said Mr. Tabbarah. Extremists, who were responsible for the hijacking, kidnapped scores of Americans and other westerners in the latter years of the 1975-90 civil war. They also were blamed for attacks against U.S. targets, including a suicide car-bombing that demolished the headquarters of U.S. Marines in Beirut in October 1983, killing 241 American servicemen.

Israeli wounded in hatchet attack in Germany

FRANKFURT (AP) — Two youths attacked a 24-year-old Israeli man with a hatchet in downtown Goettingen, slightly wounding him, police said Monday. Police said they saw the Sunday night attack as "anti-foreign," rather than anti-Semitic because the assailants apparently believed the victim was Arab. Concerns have grown about anti-Semitism in Germany after the firebombing of a synagogue in Luebeck last month. The Israeli was attacked with a beer bottle and hit in the chest with a hatchet when he argued with two drunken youths who shouted "Arab pig" at him, said Goettingen police spokesman Klaus Behrens. The Israeli, identified only as a longtime resident of Goettingen, was treated at a clinic for a superficial cut and released, he said. Bystanders chased the attackers and two other youths accompanying them but failed to catch them. Witnesses have provided police with good descriptions, Mr. Behrens said. At least 30 people have died in neo-Nazi attacks since Germany reunified in 1990. The worst occurred last May, when two Turkish women and three girls died in an arson fire in Solingen. Four German youths are on trial for murder in that case.

Iran repeats offer to send troops to Bosnia

NICOSIA (R) — Iran repeated a long-standing offer on Tuesday to send troops to Bosnia to protect people there from attack by Bosnian Serbs. "Even now when the United Nations has openly expressed its inability to defend the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina... Iran is ready to send forces to the areas under U.N. control to defend the rights of the Bosnian people," President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was quoted by Iran's IRNA news agency as saying. It said he was replying to a message from Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic. Bosnian Serb forces are besieging the town of Gorazde, held by Bosnia's mainly Muslim government. They have ignored small air attacks by Western planes aimed at stopping the assault on the town, designated a "safe area" by the U.N. last year. Iran has offered in the past to send up to 10,000 troops to join U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia, and Iranian leaders have been fiercely critical of the world body's role in the former Yugoslav republic.

Kuwait rejects Iraqi statement on annexation

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait on Monday dismissed as "playing with words" a statement by Iraq that it had long ago dropped its claim to the emirate it occupied in 1990-91.

"There is no way Iraq can play around with words like this," said Information Minister Sheikh Saud Nasser Al Saud Al Sabah.

"It is our belief and the belief of the international community that Iraq has not fulfilled its obligations with regard to (U.N. Security Council) 833, the prisoners of war and many other matters," he said in brief remarks by telephone.

"We still insist on full implementation of all Security Council resolutions."

Iraqi Information Minister Hamed Youssef Hummadi told a news conference in the Yemeni capital Sanaa on Saturday that Iraq had dropped its territorial claim.

Officials in the region have said the Gulf conflict cannot be finally settled as long as Iraq continues to refuse to recognise Kuwaiti sovereignty and a new boundary demarcated last year by the United Nations. It must also address a broad range of issues ranging from Gulf war compensation to its alleged holding of Kuwaitis and others detained during its occupation.

Mr. Hummadi said Iraq, which invaded Kuwait in August 1990 and whose troops were forced out the following February, had long ago revoked its occupation-era annexation of Kuwait as its

19th province.

"The Iraqi National Council (parliament) has revoked the annexation decision, and this was approved by the (ruling) Revolutionary Command Council and the United Nations," he said.

Mr. Hummadi was believed to be referring to a March 1991 decision by parliament and the Revolutionary Command Council revoking Iraq's post-invasion annexation of Kuwait.

Kuwait and its major allies discounted that move, made in the immediate aftermath of the Gulf war. It has been followed by three years of statements by Iraqi officials, government newspapers and parliamentarians continuing to refer to Kuwait as part of Iraq.

Sheikh Saud said the March 1991 moves were an "internal matter." He said Kuwait wanted Iraq to assert recognition of Kuwait unequivocally and in an international context.

U.N. Security Council 833 of May 27, 1993 demands Iraq and Kuwait respect the inviolability of the international boundary as demarcated by a U.N. border commission last year.

Prominent among other Kuwaiti demands is the return of more than 600 Kuwaiti and third country nationals Kuwait says Iraq still holds from the occupation period.

Iraq denies it still holds anyone detained during the occupation.

Cyprus says EU move can help solve partition

LUXEMBOURG (R) — Cypriot Foreign Minister Alocos Michaelides said on Monday that moves to admit his country to the European Union (EU) could help to unblock the problem of the island's division.

Mr. Michaelides told a news conference during a meeting with EU foreign ministers that the start of negotiations for Cypriot accession to the EU would change the "stagnant" political situation over partition.

This was because the Turkish Cypriot minority would realise the cost of remaining

outside the EU. Mr. Michaelides said, although his government wanted the whole of the island to be able to join.

The EU is due to review Cyprus's membership application in January 1995 in the light of developments in U.N.-backed efforts to promote a settlement of the island's political problems.

The EU ministers said in a statement that they had invited their observer on the Cyprus question to prepare a new report on the latest state of inter-communal talks in Cyprus in time for their monthly meeting in June.

Riyadh says all must abide by Haj quota

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia said on Monday all Muslim states must abide by an agreed 1988 quota on the number of pilgrims coming from them to perform the annual Haj pilgrimage in the kingdom.

The Saudi cabinet, after a weekly meeting in Riyadh, said "all Islamic countries should abide by the quotas agreed by foreign ministers of Islamic countries in 1988 which Saudi Arabia has been abiding by since then."

The statement was issued by the Saudi Press Agency.

The quota sets the number of pilgrims from each country as one in every thousand Muslims and is meant to ease congestion in Mecca and Medina while work is underway to expand facilities at the Muslim holy cities.

Iran has complained that Saudi Arabia was this year

trying to limit the number of Iranian pilgrims to below 60,000.

Iran has for the past three years sent 115,000 pilgrims and said this was part of a deal in which Tehran and Riyadh restored ties and ended a three-year Iranian boycott of the pilgrimage.

Saudi Arabia has consistently denied that a special deal was agreed with Iran on the number of pilgrims to the Haj, which is performed by an estimated two million Muslims every year.

After Iran's defiance of a ban on political rallies at the Haj last year, Riyadh was insisting on strict observance of the quota and has made clear it would not consider Iran's proposal to send 120,000 pilgrims in May this year.

The Saudi Interior Ministry

earlier on Monday warned that it would punish any pilgrims found carrying banned political books, pictures or leaflets. It said some pilgrims were found to be carrying banned material when they arrived in the Kingdom ready for this year's Haj.

In 1987, some 400 people, mainly Iranian pilgrims, were killed in clashes in Mecca between security forces and Iranians holding a political rally.

Iran's ruling clergy often urge pilgrims to hold rallies at the Haj to condemn what they see as the main enemies of Islam — the United States and Israel. Iranian pilgrims are also known to carry pictures of their Muslim leaders.

A Saudi official said on Friday the kingdom had told Iran its pilgrims would not be allowed to hold any political rallies or activities this year.

U.N. peacemakers see Afghan military might

HERAT, Afghanistan (R) — A United Nations peace mission looking for ways to reconcile Afghan warring factions watched a parade of military might on Monday on the second anniversary of the Mujahideen takeover in Afghanistan.

On the anniversary of the week in which ex-communist President Najibullah fled from office in Kabul and guerrillas marched into the city of Herat, some 630 kilometres west of the capital, there was no sign of a resolution of the two years of intercommunal fighting.

"Be vigilant because the enemy is killing our sisters and brothers in Kabul," Herat Governor Ismail Khan told crowds of tens of thousands of people lining city streets.

"Those are not good people who are fighting in Kabul and playing with the blood of the people of Kabul," said the governor, who is allied with embattled President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

"Your fighting has defeated the Soviet army and now you are fighting a much smaller army," Mr. Khan told his troops. "Don't let the enemy destroy all our people."

Mr. Khan was addressing a delighted crowd after a triumphant drive through this ancient city accompanied by U.N. peace mission chief, former Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri. He did not identify the enemy.

Mr. Mestiri is visiting cities through Afghanistan, a country trying to recover from 15 years of war, to gather proposals for a ceasefire and a peace solution to end bloody battles that have killed 2,000 people in Kabul since the new year's day.

More than 11,000 people, mostly non-combatant civilians, have died in two years of battles for supremacy among quarrelling parties constituting the government since they took over from the Najibullah's collapsed administration.

Mr. Najibullah remains a virtual prisoner in a U.N. office in Kabul, where he sought refuge after failing to flee after advancing rebel forces amid a palace coup in early 1992.

In Herat, a powerful governor has kept the peace in the city and the surrounding areas for more than a year.

On the second birthday of his rule, Ismail Khan paraded Soviet-manufactured tanks, U.S.-made Stinger missiles, uniformed former guerrillas and camels laden with rockets across their humps.

"Afghanistan does not belong to one or two men or one or two parties," he said. "Afghanistan belongs to the Afghan people."

His remarks appeared to be a veiled reference to Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and his new ally northern warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum, both of whom launched

blistering attacks in Kabul at the start of this year in a move to topple Mr. Rabbani.

General Dostum told Mr. Mestiri at his northern air base of Shibarghan on Sunday that there could be no peace unless Mr. Rabbani resigned.

Mr. Mestiri was due to hold talks with Mr. Ismail Khan during his two-day visit to Herat.

"I want to stop living as a soldier," 25-year-old official Fazal Ahmad said. "I don't like tanks and jets," he said as SU-22 fighters screamed past a few metres above the heads of the cheering crowd.

"I was in Jihad (holy war) but now I want to be a teacher," he said. "These weapons should not be used against innocent people."

30 tonnes of hashish seized in Lebanon

BAALBEK (AP) — Troops have seized 30 tonnes of hashish and arrested 24 suspected traffickers in the biggest haul in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley since a government crackdown on the drug trade last summer, police said Monday. Brigadier General Salim Sleim, chief of Lebanon's anti-narcotics department, said the army and police made the catch in a 24-hour joint sweep of the Bekaa's Hermel region that began Sunday. He said the Lebanese regulars were backed by Syrian troops of a 40,000-strong contingent that is helping the government enforce law and order after 15 years of civil war. The confiscated drugs, which have a market value of about \$1 million, were packed in knapsacks for shipment by sea. Preparations were under way to burn them, Gen. Sleim said. Syrian and Lebanese troops destroyed most hashish and opium plantations in the Bekaa, one of the world's major narcotics-growing regions, in a crackdown last June.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Ordy
18:00	N.B.A. sport
19:00	News in French
19:15	Le Journal De L'Histoire
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Great Moments in Science & Technology
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Too Close for Comfort
21:00	Prison
21:30	The Best of Magic
21:50	The World of The Thiries
22:00	News in English
22:30	Folklore
23:10	Paul McCartney—Live
PRAYER TIMES	
04:35	Fajr
05:57	(Sunrise) Dhuha
12:35	Dhuhr
16:12	Asr
19:12	Maghrib
20:33	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedfish, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church, Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assian International Church Tel. 623265	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 650932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be hot, dry, and dusty with winds southeasterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be southerly active and seas rough.	
Min/Max. temp.	
Amman	18 / 35
Aqaba	24 / 40
Deserts	16 / 30

JORDAN VALLEY	
21/38	
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence	661111
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Fire Brigade	192, 621111, 637777
Blood Bank	891228
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Hotel Complaints	630321
Price Complaints	605800
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information	787111
(directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	631011
Repairs	631011
Abdullah Telephone Repairing	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Fakhr Tayeh	885880
Dr. Abdul Wahid Awad	846070
Dr. Bassim Qudumi	648633
Dr. Youssef Farah	750988
Fine pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Nahrain pharmacy	626872
Al Salan pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	649745
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
Najrouh pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Mohammad Hilu	279773
Al Quds pharmacy	(—)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Khalil Abu Hussein	985000
Khalifah pharmacy	985417
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussain Medical Centre	81381332
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	642816
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malha, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shamsan	664174
Shamsan Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Mushter Hospital	667277
The Islamic, Abdali	666127
Al-Ahli, Abdali	666146
Italian, Al-Muhajirun	771013
Al-Basir, J. Ashrafah	7751126
Army/Maria	8916115
Queen Alia Hospital	60224050
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
The Sina Hospital	(09)986732</

Belgium, Jordan agree to set up Euro-information centre in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Belgian Ambassador to Jordan Pierre du Muelenaere Tuesday expressed hope that the planned Euro-Information Centre to be set up in Jordan would serve as a catalyst for promoting Jordanian-European trade, particularly Jordanian-Belgian trade.

The ambassador, speaking to the Jordan Times after signing an agreement with Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf on establishing the centre, said that the Belgian government would be providing financial aid to the ministry to install the equipment and would provide training to personnel who would operate the centre.

Belgium would provide the aid immediately, and it is up to the Jordanian side to take steps to establish the centre so that services could be offered to Jordanian businesspersons in an effort to promote the trade links, said Mr. de Muelenaere.

Speaking after the signing ceremony Dr. Khalaf said that the centre is the fruit of close cooperation between the Belgian and Jordanian governments in promoting the Kingdom's capabilities in exporting national products to European markets and attracting joint investments in the Kingdom, added Dr. Khalaf.

She said the new centre would be housed at JEDCO (Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation), which is affiliated with the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The centre would be directly linked with Euro-Information Centre in Belgium which would provide European information to Jordanian businesspersons, added the minister.

Apart from providing the cost of the equipment and training, said Dr. Khalaf, the Belgian government would bear the cost of periodic publications in Europe as well as the cost of contacts between the Belgium centre and others in Europe concerning the link with the Jordanian centre, and the Jordanian government would cover the cost of running the Amman centre.

Jordan seeks EBU help in upgrading media services

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information Jawad Anani Tuesday called on the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) to help Jordan promote its information and media services, especially radio broadcasting, and help transfer modern technology to the Kingdom.

Addressing the Engineering Committee of the EBU, which opened a meeting at the Royal Cultural Centre Tuesday, the minister said it is regrettable that Jordan is still technologically far behind in radio broadcasting, and the country is concerned that it is merely benefiting from other achievements rather than playing the role of participant and partner.

It is hoped that the EBU will help Jordan become competitive in its endeavours through radio broadcasting, said Dr. Anani.

He said Radio Jordan will be interested in benefiting from the EBU's contributions towards further promoting communication and media services.

In welcoming the EBU participants to their five-day meeting, Radio and Television Corporation Acting Director General Ibrahim Shahzadeh said he hoped that the EBU meeting in Amman, the first to be held outside Europe, would benefit Jordan's media development and pave the way for a wider degree of mutual cooperation.

Mr. Shahzadeh said the corporation would be placing its facilities at the disposal of the participants, who represent 46 countries, to ensure the meeting's success.

Discussions will cover a wide range of topics in radio engineering services, recording and broadcasting and EBU's relations with other similar world organisations.

The participants represent radio and television stations in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, the Americas, Japan, Australia and South Korea in addition to several concerned world organisations.

World union supports Arab women

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — About 160 women representing 70 countries expressed their solidarity with Arab women seeking to restore legitimacy to banned women's organisations in all parts of the world.

In a statement issued at the end of a two-day meeting held in Paris on April 9-10, the World Democratic Women's Union (WDWU) expressed its support of and solidarity with efforts aimed at providing a dignified life for Arab women living in areas of conflict.

"We express our solidarity with Arab women who are fighting to obtain equal rights," said the statement signed by women participants who represent 83 organisations.

The conferences lent support in their statement to all the efforts exerted to reach a just and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict; the implementation of United Nations resolutions regarding Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories in Palestine, the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon; giving the Palestinian people their legitimate rights; releasing all detainees including women; lifting the embargo on Iraq, Libya and Qadha; solidarity with Sudanese women; release of all women prisoners; and solidarity with Algerian women.

The World Democratic Women's Union, which includes 136 organisations in its membership representing 129 countries, elected Sylvie Jeanne, head of the French Women's Union, as its president and Mayyadah Abbasi, a member of the General Secretariat of the Palestinian Women's General Union, as vice-president. Emilie Naffa from Jordan was elected as a member of the union's executive committee.

"There was a general feeling among participants that women should exert more efforts and unify their ranks to acquire their rights," said Ms. Naffa after her return from the two-day conference.

"The level of discussion and the amount of work that had been executed before and during the conference is promising."

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent receives message from Pakistani Premier

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday received a message from Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto. The message was delivered to Prince Hassan by the visiting Pakistani Minister of Industry and Production Mohammad Asghar, who was received in an audience by the Regent. Prince Hassan and the Pakistani minister reviewed the Middle East peace process, bilateral relations and means of enhancing them. The audience was attended by the Crown Prince's special advisor, Mohammad Saqaf, Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf and the Pakistani ambassador to Jordan.

Princess Basma holds women's briefing

IRBID (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday briefed a women's meeting in Irbid, on the National Strategy for Women and stressed the women's role at the district and governorate level. Princess Basma emphasised the important role women can play in shaping their own future and changing the society's traditional outlook on women's roles. She said she hoped that women at the district levels can come up with a mechanism that would ensure the smooth implementation of the strategy's objectives. The meeting drafted an agreement to form a preparatory committee, which will be entrusted with working out a preliminary plan to translate the strategy into action at the local levels.

Awqaf minister meets visiting delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi Tuesday met at the King Abdullah Mosque the delegations which participated Monday in the Kingdom's celebrations marking the completion of renovation works at the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem. Dr. Abbadi briefed the delegations on the role of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in preserving and protecting holy places in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories.

Oman water conference

(Continued from page 1)

observer in line with the Kingdom's decision to link its return to the peace process to the lifting of the siege on Aqaba.

His Majesty King Hussein said earlier this month the siege was causing enormous losses because of the delay in deliveries to the Kingdom's only sea port at Aqaba. He suggested instead that the inspections be carried out by neutral observers after the ships dock at the port.

Mr. Herbst said the conference did not regard Mr. Ghazawi as an observer, because there was no such a status in the multilaterals.

Conference delegates, insisting on not being identified, said the U.S.-Jordanian argument was resolved by allowing Mr. Ghazawi to petition the co-sponsors of the conference with the country's grievances.

In his capacity as gavel holder, Mr. Herbst listed in his statement key recommendations on which the conferees reached a consensus: an Omani proposal for a desalination research centre in Muscat, a German offer to study water supply and demand in the region, a U.N. proposal to develop waste water treatment and Israel's call for making water systems more efficient for small communities through implementing regional training programmes.

Israel's proposal was the first to be endorsed by the water working group which has held several meetings before Muscat's.

The United States, European Union (EU) members, Japan, Canada and the United Nations all offered to help on that score, and Mr. Herbst said the first course will begin in June in the United States.

"I think we are delighted that Oman agreed to host this session," he said. "It brings the parties of the region to the Gulf."

Added the American official: "This is a very significant step (because) it demonstrates further progress in the peace

Ship hauling tractor parts for Iraq turned away

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The U.S.-led naval force patrolling the Red Sea has denied entry to another Aqaba-bound vessel on grounds that it was carrying "unauthorised" spare parts for Iraq, shipping officials said Tuesday.

They said the Polish-flag Moniufzko, which had among its Jordan-bound cargo 30 tonnes of spare parts for tractors imported by the Iraqi government, headed for Port Suez to unload the consignment.

The inspectors ruled that the U.N. approval for the spare parts dated back to November 1993, and as such it was no longer valid," said one of the officials.

The parameters that the inspectors apply to determine the validity of U.N. approvals were not immediately known. But, according to U.N. diplomats, there is little coordination if any at all between the inspectors and the U.N. Sanctions Committee.

U.N. Security Council Resolution 687 of April 1991 exempts food and medicine as well as items related to food and medicine from the sanctions the world body imposed on Iraq in August 1990 following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

As such, spare parts for tractors are exempt since they are used in the agriculture sector to produce food. Exemption certificates are issued by the Sanctions Committee, which comprises 15 members of the Security Council itself.

The absence of coordination between the inspectors and the sanctions committee became apparent in several instances when the inspectors rejected the committee's certifications saying they were forged.

The authenticity of the documents was established in all cases, but not before ships carrying cargo covered by them were turned away from Aqaba, leading to severe losses to importers.

The Moniufzko, which is carrying nearly 500 tonnes of general cargo, most of it in 30 full containers, would return to Aqaba after the "suspect" cargo is off-loaded at Port Suez, the officials said.

The Moniufzko, operated by a Chinese-Polish joint venture, was the 14th ship to be intercepted and denied entry to Aqaba this year by the enforcers of the sanctions against Iraq patrolling the Red Sea. In 1993, they turned away 20 ships.

The 13th intercepted vessel this year, the Ikan-Seleyang, which is carrying newspaper and unprocessed sanitary paper for the Jordanian market, continued to wait at the Tiran Straits on Tuesday for the third day running after it was prevented from proceeding to Aqaba.

The vessel's agents and other concerned parties are continuing contacts with the U.S. naval command in Bahrain to get clearance for the ship to proceed to Aqaba.

Aqaba," said one shipping source who preferred anonymity. "The stand-off was continuing as of Tuesday afternoon."

Ikan Seleyang was denied entry because the sea-based inspectors ruled that the Jordan-bound cargo was accessible for inspection, the shipping officials said. In addition, the inspectors also demanded "accessibility" to cargo stowed in the holds of the vessel destined for other ports, they said.

If it was denied permission after the contacts and rearranging cargo for fresh inspections, the Ikan Seleyang will sail off to Dubai, where it will unload the 4,000 tonnes of cargo destined for Aqaba, they added.

The escalated interception of Aqaba-bound ships has prompted Jordan to hinge its return to the 29-month-old U.S.-backed Arab-Israeli peace process on an end to the blockade of the Kingdom's only seaport.

In line with this stand, Jordan sent a lone observer to a round of multilateral talks on Middle East water in Oman this week. The Kingdom refused to endorse a final statement of the meeting until its demand for an end to the damaging sea-based inspections was addressed (see page 1).

Officials and businesspersons here are optimistic that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is expected to visit the Middle East later this month, would bring with him a satisfactory solution to the overall stand-off over Aqaba.

Jordan has proposed that the sea-based inspections by the U.S.-led task force be replaced by on-shore inspections at Aqaba by a neutral, international, non-profit organisation without infringing upon the Kingdom's sovereignty.

Officials have said that Washington had sought "clarifications" on the proposal and that Amman had provided them.

Lawyers, parliamentarians to study German systems

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of six prominent Jordanian lawyers and parliamentarians have been invited by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation of Germany to conduct a study of German legal and political systems between April 20 and 30, according to a foundation statement Tuesday. The statement said that the six individuals would acquaint themselves with the German systems through visits to courts of constitutional and administrative jurisdictions.

These include the Federal Constitutional Court, and the Federal Supreme Court and institutions for the protection of the German constitution, and would have meetings with members of the Bundestag (the German parliament) and the states' parliaments, high-ranking officials at the Federal Chancellor's Office and the Ministry of Justice in Bonn and the head office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

The visit will include Berlin, Brandenburg, Bonn, Treves, Karlsruhe and Heidelberg.

The foundation has invited Senator Ahmad Obeidat, Deputy Abdul Karim Al Dughni, Majid Ghanma, judge at the Court of Cassation, Hisham Al Tal, Judge at the High Court of Justice, Mohammad Ghazawi, dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Jordan and Walid Qsous, professor at the faculty of law at the University of Jordan.

The statement added that the invitation was a follow-up to a seminar on democracy and the rule of law organised by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in November 1992 in Jordan.



Nurses demand overtime pay

By Natasha Bukhari Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian Nurses' Union (JNU) is demanding overtime compensation for its government-employed members on par with other government employees.

"We have been forced to take legal action as our demands have been neglected by the government for over two years now," JNU Director Nazeem Bzour told the Jordan Times on Tuesday.

According to the Labour Law, employees working for government-supervised institutions are to be compensated for any extra work over the maximum six working hours per day. Nurses work for eight hours per day and receive no compensation for the extra time, said Mr. Bzour, adding that this "mistreatment" is negatively affecting nurses' quality of work because they feel underprivileged.

According to the present Labour Law, employees should earn an extra 30 per cent of their wages for every extra working hour. In the case of nurses the law is not being enforced despite continuous demands that nurses be treated fairly, said Mr. Nazeem. "The Ministry of Health has not been cooperative and we have been hearing nothing but empty promises for years," complained Mr. Bzour, explaining the reason behind the JNU lawsuit against the Ministry of Health.

According to Kamal Nasser, the union's legal consultant, the Ministry of Health is currently studying the JNU's earlier demands, but has not yet taken action on them.

Mr. Nazeem said that the Ministry of Health has tried to "blackmail" the JNU to force them to drop their case; he said that Mahmoud Sheheb, the ministry's secretary general has threatened to reduce nurses' working hours to six a day, increase the number of shifts and withhold all privileges the ministry provides nursing staff including housing, food and transportation.

Such a proposal is not in the ministry's best interest because it will increase its financial burdens, and these "threats" only reflect how much nurses' work is undermined, Mr. Nazeem said. "Nursing staff are becoming frustrated and are talking about going on strike," said Mr. Nazeem, adding that he personally was against taking such measures, but that he fully supports their demands.

"We will not give up and we will demand to acquire what is legally and legitimately our right," he persisted.

The country has a shortage in nursing staff and the government's attitude towards their (nurses') "rights" discourages others from taking up this career, which contradicts the country's national interest, Mr. Nazeem said. This is something the government should take into consideration, added Mr. Nazeem.

Japan urges Jordan's private sector to boost ties via investment, tourism

By Elia Nasrallah Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japan's Ambassador to Jordan Yuji Ikeda Tuesday urged the Jordanian private sector to play a key role in promoting ties between Jordan and Japan and to help attract investors and tourists to the Kingdom.

Addressing a lunch meeting hosted in his honour by the Amman Rotary Club, the ambassador said trade, tourism and cultural exchanges could be boosted through seminars, trade fairs and the media among other activities that could be handled by the private sector in Jordan.

It is true that only a few Japanese tourists have been to this country about which little is known in Japan, but it is hoped that the direct air transport route between Amman and Osaka expected to start later this year would open the door for a great number of Japanese tourists to the Kingdom, said Mr. Ikeda.

Still, he said, a great deal is required on the part of the various sectors in this country to attract visitors from Japan.

Mr. Ikeda and Civil Aviation Authority (CAN) Director General Ahmad Jweiber signed an agreement on April 16 paving the way for Royal Jordanian (RJ) to fly to Japan's Kansai International Airport after it opens in September this year.

It is also hoped that the NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) would play a role in presenting a good image of the Kingdom to the Japanese public, said Mr. Ikeda.

The NHK had recently announced its decision to produce a 40-minute documentary on the life of Jordanians to be aired in Japan.

The ambassador said that at least 20 million families in Japan are expected to watch the documentary.

Referring to the exchange of visits by high level delegations the ambassador said that members of the Royal Family in Jordan and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali have visited Japan, adding that he "will try to get Japanese ministers and probably the foreign minister to come to Jordan."

On the current political changes in Japan, Mr. Ikeda said that whoever succeeds Morihiro Hosokawa as prime minister, Tokyo's policies with regard to the Middle East region would remain unchanged.

He said most probably foreign minister Tsutomu Hata would form a new coalition and would pursue efforts towards further bolstering ties with Jordan.

With reference to the peace process, the ambassador said Japan is deeply interested in this process and would continue to provide Jordan with various forms of assistance in appreciation of its peace-oriented policies and would help it carry out its socio-economic development.



Yuji Ikeda

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة التي تصدرها مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية. تأسست 1975.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

A paralysed U.N., again

U.N. SECRETARY General Butros Ghali's request for wider mandate for military intervention in Bosnia to protect the six areas declared as safe zones by the Security Council is obviously a bitter lesson drawn from the inability of the international community to honour its decision to declare Gorazde a safe haven. The 19-day Serbian onslaught on the Gorazde enclave is straining the joint NATO-U.N. presence in that country to the limit and is making the two organisations look impotent in the face of Serb defiance. Mr. Ghali's urgent call for added powers to deal with the situation in Bosnia comes in stark contrast with his earlier reluctant posture on military air strikes to halt Serbian advances.

Much water has crossed under the bridge since last year and the U.N. chief is now more convinced than ever that it is the credibility of his organisation, not to mention that of NATO, which is at stake.

With President Bill Clinton and other Western leaders virtually washing their hands of Gorazde's imminent fate by declaring that further air strikes against Serb gunners is ruled out, the secretary general must have been pained by NATO's unwillingness to follow up on its initial military involvement. NATO's initial raising of the stakes for the combatants and later its abandonment of its declared stance at a time when it was most urgently needed, must have made the U.N. and its secretary general feel deserted mid way in the continuous efforts to settle the armed and political conflict in the former Yugoslavia.

With even Moscow growing impatient with its Serbian allies over their tactics in conducting peace talks while pursuing military objectives, the Russian opposition to Mr. Ghali may have been a bit of a surprise. Moscow has traditionally stood opposed to any efforts to expand the powers of the U.N. secretary general. The traditional Russian preference to have the Security Council alone assume powers on international and regional peace and war issues appears to be the single most important reason why the Russian ambassador to the U.N. voiced immediate objection to Mr. Ghali's attempts to assert himself as a powerful international figure able to take action on matters already decided by the Security Council. The controversy goes beyond the immediate problem in Bosnia and touches the heart of the matter as far as the international organisation is concerned. Mr. Ghali seeks an effective international leadership and is supported to a great extent by the Western capitals. Fearful of Western hegemony over the U.N., China would join forces with Russia in expressing reservations about Ghali's quest for greater mandate. The cold war era that paralysed the U.N. in the last four decades appears to be back with vengeance. Bosnia appears only to be the new clashing point of a renewed cold war.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Tuesday addressed the visit of the Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament Nabih Berri to Jordan describing it as yet another chance to help bring together the Arab parties involved in the peace process. The ideas brought by Mr. Berri and his call for consolidating coordination between Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), reflect Lebanon's keen interest in rallying the Arabs' efforts vis-a-vis Israel's defiance, said Mahmoud Rimawi. Mr. Berri's visit was timely, coming amidst an Israeli escalation of air raids on southern Lebanon, Israeli leaders' threats against Jordan for allegedly harbouring Hamas and Israel's offer to Syria to conclude peace with it in exchange for an Israeli pullout from the Golan, said the writer. At the same time, Israel has not softened its stand with regard to a pulling out from Palestinian lands in compliance with U.N. resolutions, and this stand together with the common threat to the Arabs should prompt them to unify their ranks, said the writer. Mr. Berri discussed these issues in Amman, expressing bitterness at the prevailing Arab situation which lacks coordination, according to the writer, who urged the Arab parties to take immediate action towards forming a united bloc in the face of the Israeli challenge.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour expressed the view that Hamas-orchestrated bomb blasts inside Israel lent support for the Palestinian leadership and strengthened the position of the Palestinian negotiators with Israel. Mazaen Hammad said that indeed the bomb blasts made the Israeli leaders realise that the Palestinian masses were not satisfied with the way the peace negotiations were heading and demanding a quick action towards an Israeli pull out, an objective sought diplomatically by the Palestinian leadership. It goes without saying that had the bomb blasts not occurred, Mr. Rabin would not have declared that his government was planning to restrict or remove the Jewish settlements, said the writer.

Uncertain stands Europe

Increasing EU membership could delay progress towards united foreign policy

By Paul Ames
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The European Union (EU) plans to take in four prosperous new members, extending the reach of the powerful economic bloc into the heart of central Europe and north to Russia's Arctic frontiers.

If Austria, Sweden, Norway and Finland join as planned on Jan. 1, they will enlarge the union to 16 nations, 375 million people and an economy worth \$7 trillion a year. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) of the United States, Canada and Mexico has 360 million people in a \$6 trillion economy.

Such expansion warms the hearts of those who dream of building a European superpower to rival the United States. But some Europeans believe increasing the membership will only delay progress towards united foreign and defence policies.

"A common foreign policy comes from common interests, not from a declaration in a treaty," said Jonathan Eyal, director of studies at the Royal United Services Institute in London. He said larger membership will make it "even more difficult" to define those common interests.

Supporters of ever-closer ties among European nations fear the newcomers will join Britain in defending national sovereignty against visions of a "United States of Europe."

Also, the NATO-aligned majority will have to

accommodate the neutrality of Sweden, Austria and Finland.

Nor did negotiations with the four candidates boost confidence in Europe's ability to unite. Before they were completed a month after the March 30 deadline, foreign ministers spent weeks quarrelling about how to adapt voting procedures and share out Norway's fish stocks.

While they wrangled, others took the lead in Bosnia and the Middle East, two areas where the European Union had once hoped for diplomatic success.

"If Austria, Sweden, Norway and Finland join as planned on Jan. 1, they will enlarge the union to 16 nations, 375 million people and an economy worth \$7 trillion a year. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) of the United States, Canada and Mexico has 360 million people in a \$6 trillion economy."

U.S. and Russian Diplomats pressed for peace in former Yugoslavia with some success, and the United States became the broker in Israeli-Arab talks.

"It demonstrates what American leadership can provide," Stuart E. Eizenstat, U.S. ambassador to the European Union, told the Associated Press.

"Europe is beginning to come together. But even with that, they still need the entrance of the world's only superpower to make things ful-

ly happen."

In January, the bloc appeared to recognise this when its foreign ministers appealed for American help to end the killing in Bosnia. That was a far cry from a declaration in 1991 by Foreign Minister Jacques Poos of Luxembourg, then the EU chairman, that European diplomacy would end the war quickly.

"This is the hour of Europe, not America," Mr. Poos said on his way to the first of many EU peace missions. All of them failed. The treaty on European

Mr. Eyal of the London Institute was less diplomatic: "Their initiatives in the Middle East were a disaster.... On Yugoslavia, they spent three years bickering like fish wives."

Hans Van Den Broek, foreign affairs chief of the EU Executive Commission, acknowledges a rocky start for the common foreign policy.

"What we have seen so far... should certainly be followed by more visible, concrete and cohesive actions," he said in an interview. Mr. Van Den Broek feels the union must simplify decision-making if it wants "to perform a role corresponding to its economic weight and political responsibility."

Member nations have scheduled a conference in 1996 to do that, clarify foreign policy and strengthen the new defence arm, the Western European Union.

As usual, however, they disagree about how to do it. Some hope the conference will push the union towards a federal state with its own constitution. Others are determined to defend national sovereignty, and the neutral newcomers are wary of a common defence.

But all realise change is necessary to make the union work and continue growing.

Its potential for growth is enormous: In addition to the four nations scheduled to join Jan. 1, Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic want in by 2000 and a dozen others from Malta to Estonia are knocking at the door.

LETTERS

Poor robbers, rich dealers

To the Editor:

RECENT REPORT of tomb-robbing in the Ghor Al Safi (ancient Zoara) by Cable News Network (CNN), the Jordan Times and others are upsetting for more than the obvious reasons. True, that pillaging of this important Bronze Age and Byzantine site has meant a great loss to our archaeological knowledge of the area. But worse is the grim reality that the only ones who are punished are the poorest citizens of Jordan struggling to support their impoverished families. Even more tragic, as CNN pointed out, are the youth involved in these activities, who have never known a stable job, and see tomb-robbing as the only source of income. We are "working," said one young man. And they are.

On the other side, demand for antiquities by wealthy Jordanians and foreigners will never be curbed. There is a strong psychological attraction in owning a piece of history; part of the past which can be linked to our own present. Some of these antiquities may also have artistic value which can be the source of immense pleasure to the possessor. Private collectors may actually appreciate antiquities much more than scholars or museum curators. So why deny them this?

The dealers are the third part of the antiquities trade. They have the most to gain financially and the least to lose. They mark up their prices 100-1000 per cent above what they originally paid the desperate tomb-robbers. Often, they even arrange antiquities to be exported from Jordan itself. This is an even greater tragedy for the heritage of the country, especially at a time when the tourism industry needs to be developed, and requires archaeological attractions.

The recent reports of tomb-robbings in the Ghor Al Safi have forced the government, with the aid of the army, to protect what is left of ancient Zoara. They have also mounted a campaign to arrest those involved in the illegal antiquities trade. So far they have only rounded-up some of the poor tomb-robbers — will they be the scapegoats?

The government should give more support to the Department of Antiquities by helping them save what is left of ancient Jordan. As an immediate measure, salaries for site guards should be increased from the JD 35-70 per month. Perhaps private tour operators and Friends of Archaeology could help pay for this. An even better long-term strategy should be developed giving priority to excavate endangered archaeological sites such as Safi or Azraq rather than safer ones at Petra, Jerash or Amman.

Konstantinos D. Politis,
Archaeologist,
Ghor Al Safi.

Unwarranted reaction

To the Editor:

I wish to comment on the letter from Rodica G. Ma'ayta to the Jordan Times (April 12), in which she attacks a letter from Mrs. G. Woodward (Jordan Times, April 7-8).

I am quite sure that Mrs. Woodward did not mean any offence against Arabic programmes in her letter. She was just making the point that perhaps Arabic programmes ought to be shown on Channel 1. (The Arabic Channel), as opposed to Channel 2, which like her I also believed to be the Foreign Channel, as it shows programmes in French, Hebrew, English and sometimes German.

We "foreigners", (and I am British, not American!), are well aware that we are guests in this wonderful country, and I am sure we all appreciate it. I would guess that most of us watch Channel 2, while most Jordanians watch Channel 1. Many of us would not understand the language on Channel 1, which brings me to the subject of football. Most commentaries on it are not in our languages and therefore should be shown on Channel 1. Rodica Ma'ayta states, "lately it (football) has become very popular with ladies as well" — is there any proof of that? Personally I detest football and switch off as soon as it comes on, but I do appreciate that other people like it. I would like to see more of other sports instead. We have had far too much football on Channel 2 lately — a bit more often than "every now and then"! I would like to suggest that in the programme announcements and in the Jordan Times we could be told what is to be shown on both Channels, then we could choose if we want to watch an Arabic series or football on Channel 1.

The story line of "End of a Brave Man" was good, but the series could have been condensed into less showings as there was a lot of repetition in it. I do agree with Mrs. Woodward that the English subtitles were not good enough, with their "poor timing, wrong spelling, letters left out and poor English usage". I doubt if many people would have taped the whole series as it was 27 hours long and nine 3-hour tapes would have been required!

As to soaps and movies, while these may not be to everyone's taste, they are a way of taking one away for a short time from life's problems and the daily violence and horrors we see in the news. Life would be very dull if there was not a bit of light relief to brighten it up sometimes. As the old saying goes — "You cannot please all of the people all of the time".

On many occasions we have not been shown the programmes advertised because of political news. This we all appreciate is of great importance, but do we have to wait four times in three hours on Channel 2? On the other hand the News in English at Ten doesn't show some items of interest shown earlier in the Arab news (both on Channel 2), such as archaeological finds and the progress at Taibeh, as it stops after 15 or 20 minutes. It would not hurt to add a few minutes into it to show these items.

Finally, I would request Jordan Television (JTV) to give us back our relaxing warm programme-announcement tune which was accompanied by different pictures of life in Jordan until very recently. The new tune is to my mind unsuitable, harsh, and the picture of a clockface very boring!

I would like to suggest that JTV puts a questionnaire in several editions of the Jordan Times to see what programmes foreigners really like to watch. I for one would be happy to fill it in.

Miss Chris Larter,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are return of unused manuscripts.



Crisis flared in Bosnia as endgame appeared near

Yasushi Akashi, refused. Instead, he placed faith in what Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic promised was a 'Gorazde ceasefire'.

The Briton got out, but later died. And, by Saturday, Serb tanks were blasting towards the very centre of Gorazde town.

"As with the removal of Serb heavy guns from around Sarajevo in February, in the Gorazde crisis only the Russians proved to have leverage with the Serbs."

More air strikes were ordered. But they were called off when Gen. Mladic's troops shot down a British sea harrier on Saturday as it approached for the first bombing run.

Mr. Akashi came as close as the United Nations has come to pulling out entirely, demanding the Serbs release U.N. personnel and hold fire

before he would talk to them again Sunday.

The Serbs agreed to hold fire, pull back nearly two miles from the town centre, and allow 350 U.N. peacekeepers into the enclave. Yet on Sunday, Serb tanks rolled into Gorazde about the same time as Bosnian

sian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said Sunday, after holding urgent talks with Mr. Milosevic the day before in Belgrade.

The Bosnian Serbs, their Muslim and Croat foes and the international community have wanted to end the war for more than a year. But they could never agree on terms.

If a settlement is reached over Gorazde, the way may be clear for a final peace in Bosnia. International mediators could seize the momentum and press for the overall truce they had thought was close.

After that, they must persuade the Bosnian government under which the Serbs will almost certainly give up some of the 72 per cent of Bosnia they now hold — but only in exchange for their own state and close links with neighbouring Serbia, for which they have shed blood for two years.

Fe
By Dr.
OWING to
archaeologi
is during the
resulted in
large number
Department
the neces
museum to
considered
attraction i
This new
ceived to fo
tion with th
not as a
to that the
presently in
off of Al
house the l
and sculptu
while the m
modern bui
of the city
small find
tions.
The new l
for several
noticed that
tourists rea
they are lo
of the old m
to having re
cates there
while not see
daily life of
created the
of the new
of the new
additional pl
Also, the
already hous
the Petri R
monument
of Amman
the addition
the centre a
The design
was assigne
Tal, an emp
partment of
degree in th
designs, the
nab that we
able at the
department
remnants of
for building
All the othe
in the museu
locally in A
Musa, and th
the work was
men from A
Musa, as well
the Departme
The majori
on display
stores of the
Antiquities
man. Only a f
on display we
the Petra
museums. The
and English
the displays an
information a
cific descripti
on display, a
detailed info
context, histo
technology of
people wishin
might into the
the displays.
Entrance and
The museum
visitors through
cases displaying
from the (l
AD). The mu
Jaile
stud
By Ja
MIAMI — S
trafficking co
former Panam
man Man
Noriega has b
tured as a
who devote
rual pursu
blants
"Today, his
seasons are h
of Oro cook
worn Bible.
Dane Sawe
the interview
ABC televis
But his la
only filed ar
the com
different p
Reuters Mr.
most of his
his trial tra
ng prepare
He's read
verse and wo
trip," he sa
said, "I'm
optimistic ab
he's not onc
who lays du
ever."
And, said M
the truth he
most of his
Mr. Noriega
U.S. Justice
December 198
son of Panam
based on eigh
spiracy and
spying and i
near Miami.
The lawye
Noriega, is
although held
who has bee
the Dictator
will blame Pr
Bash, who

By Dr. Khairiah Amr

OWING TO the increased archaeological activities at Petra during the last decade which resulted in the discovery of large numbers of artifacts, the Department of Antiquities saw the necessity for another museum to represent the city considered the prime touristic attraction in Jordan.

This new museum was conceived to function in conjunction with the existing museum and not as a replacement for it, so that the old museum — presently inside a cave on the cliff of Al Habis — would house the larger architectural and sculpted stone objects, while the new museum in the modern building at the centre of the city would house the small finds from the excavations.

The new location was chosen for several reasons. It was noticed that by the time most tourists reach the city centre, they are too tired to climb up to the old museum. They settle to having refreshments at the cafes there, then turn back without seeing the items of daily life of the people who created the magnificent monuments of the city. The location of the new museum offers them the service without much additional physical strain.

Also, the modern building already houses the offices of the Petra Research and Restoration Centre of the Department of Antiquities, making the addition of a museum to the centre a natural choice.

The design of the museum was assigned to Nazem Al Tal, an employee of the Department of Antiquities with a degree in fine arts. In her designs, she used many materials that were already available at the storerooms of the department in Petra, such as remnants of scaffolding wood for building the display cases.

All the other materials used in the museum were bought locally in Amman and Wadi Musa, and the execution of all the work was done by craftsmen from Amman and Wadi Musa, as well as employees of the Department of Antiquities.

The majority of the artifacts on display came from the stores of the Department of Antiquities in Petra and Amman. Only a few selected items on display were rehoused from the Petra and Amman museums. The texts (in Arabic and English) accompanying the displays are written to offer information at two levels: specific descriptions of the objects on display, as well as more detailed information on the context, history, typology and technology of the objects for people wishing to gain more insight into the background of the displays.

Entrance and the first hall

The museum is open to the visitor through two glass show cases displaying large storage jars from the Petra Church (dated to the sixth century AD). The museum is divided



YET ANOTHER ATTRACTION: The ancient red rose city receives a new showcase for its history (photo by

Aynsley Floyd)

A tour of the new museum at Petra

into three main halls. The first hall presents an introduction to Petra, with panels about the geology and history of the area, as well as selected displays of religious sculpture, pottery and the very important aspect of hydraulic engineering.

The second hall

The second hall in the museum has a special display to the left, offering information concerning three important aspects of the life of the city. First, there are the earthquakes. The Jordan Rift Valley is a major geological fault. People living next to it have experienced destructive earthquakes throughout the centuries and documented many of them in historical records, but they continued rebuilding and setting on their land. On display are ceramic objects from three houses found built on top of each other in the city centre, each was destroyed by a different earthquake (dated to AD 113/114, AD 363 and AD 551). In addition to their being a grave reminder of one hazard of life in this part of the world,

such discoveries are important tools for archaeologists, because earthquakes affect large areas and comparing the cultural remains from destructions at one site can help in dating similar destructions at other sites of similar cultural history.

The second display in this special show case is dedicated to Nabataean trade, considered by some historians as the most important factor in both the rise and fall of the Nabataean kingdom. There is special emphasis on the incense route, of which the Nabataeans controlled the crucial section between the producers in southern Arabia and the consumers in the Classical empires.

The third display concerns Petra in the Middle Ages, which were truly dark in this case. There is a description of the excavations at the Crusader Castle of Al W'atrah, and the text of the section from a manuscript of Al Nuwairi concerning the trip of Sultan Baibars from Cairo to Karak, with detailed descriptions of Petra in AD 1276.

The rest of the second hall is dedicated to selected

archaeological excavations in the area, starting with the Neolithic village of Beidha — to the northwest of Petra — excavated under the direction of Mrs. Diana Kirkbride from the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem. These excavations produced important data concerning daily life during the period of human settlement in a village community for the first time ever.

The second display is dedicated to the Tawilan excavations, directed by the late Crystal Bennett of the British Institute at Amman for Archaeology and History. The site is an Iron Age settlement in the hills to the north of Petra, overlooking Wadi Musa. This unfortified village managed to survive the turbulent eighth to fifth centuries BC. The affluence and wide-ranging contacts of the inhabitants are best illustrated by the board of jewellery (displayed in the jewellery show case) and the first cameiform tablet to be discovered in Jordan.

The third display concerns the excavations of Az Zantur in the city centre, directed by

Rolf A. Stucky of the University of Basel. These excavations deal with the little known aspect of domestic life in Petra. A Nabataean house from the first/early second century AD and two houses from the fourth century AD are the main foci of these excavations. Unfortunately, at the time of the setting up of the museum, most of the finds from these excavations were on loan to the Nabataean exhibition in Switzerland. These objects will be incorporated in the display as soon as possible.

The fourth display deals with the Zurabab excavations, directed by Fawzi Zayadine and of the Department of Antiquities and the writer of this report. The site, which lies in the northern outskirts of Petra, was a major pottery manufacturing centre from the first century BC/AD up to the sixth century AD, making it the longest operating, and incidentally the largest, purely industrial area known in Jordan.

The fifth display exhibits finds from the Temple of the Winged Lions excavations, directed by Philip Hammond

of the University of Utah. Examples of the lavish decorations of the temple proper are displayed, as well as finds from the adjoining habitation quarters and workshops.

The sixth display deals with finds from the excavations directed by Dr. Zayadine at the temple of Qasr Al Bint, Petra's most famous free-standing monument in the heart of the city.

The seventh and last display is dedicated to the Petra Church, the discovery of which was reported by the late Kenneth W. Russell in 1950. The field excavations were conducted by Dr. Zigmund T. Fiema and Robert Schick of ACOR and the writer of this report. This church, built in the late fifth century and destroyed in the mid-sixth century AD, has the only mosaics uncovered in Petra up till now.

The third hall

The second and third halls are connected by a small display of jewellery and cosmetic items, including the outstanding fifth century BC gold and carnelian hoard from Tawilan. This is followed by a show case containing a large storage jar from the Petra Church, which opens up onto the entrance to the building.

In the third hall, groups of selected small finds are displayed. In the centre, facing the entrance, there is an L-shaped display of silver and bronze coins from Petra, which leads the visitor back to the first display to the right of the entrance. This first display contains ceramic lamps ranging in date from the Iron Age up to the early Islamic period, showing the development in the forms of these items of daily use. The lamps on display include one Nabataean lamp with an inscription at the base.

The corner between the first and second displays is occupied by another show case opening onto the outside. This case contains a smaller storage jar from the Petra Church, while the second display is dedicated to figurines, with examples of beautiful cast bronze objects. Next to these is a selection of terracotta human and animal representations, and small stone and bone sculptures.

The display opposite the entrance to the third hall contains examples of ceramic bowls and plates, including the famous Nabataean painted bowls. The painted objects range in date from the early first century AD up to and including a very rare example of a sixth century painted bowl from Zurabab.

The corner between the last two display cases is occupied by a small case containing four closed cooking pots, this being the most common form. The last display, of ceramic small jars, bottles and jugs, also contains examples of painted Nabataean pottery.

The writer works at the Research Division of the Department of Antiquities.

Turkish farmers await promised water

By Suna Erdem
Reuter

SANLIURFA, Turkey — Gold-toothed Halil Karaliman sat at a desk in white Arab robes, gazing at a slide show on how to irrigate his land in southeast Turkey.

"We'll have three crops a year and make lots of money," he enthused in Arabic, as another farmer translated into Turkish.

Mr. Karaliman, 62, hopes his life will be transformed when irrigation water begins to flow to his arid land as a result of Turkey's efforts to harness the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

"It is one of the world's biggest regional development schemes," said Olcay Unver, president of the Southeast Anatolia Project (GAP), intended to enrich 10 million Arabs, Turks and Kurds in an impoverished region torn by a Kurdish insurgency.

Turkey hopes that GAP, covering an area of 75,000 square km or more than twice the size of Belgium, will help to soothe the decade-old revolt led by the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which has cost more than 11,000 lives.

Turkey's tightening grip on regional water alarms its downstream neighbours Syria and Iraq, but intermittent talks have failed to resolve differences.

GAP, which employs Turkish engineering and construction firms, aims to create 3.5 million jobs and quintuple the income of the region, which covers a tenth of Turkey's land area but generates only four per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

In the process, GAP will change traditional ways of life on the Harran Plain, legendary home of Adam and Eve, first in line for water from the giant Ataturk Dam across the Euphrates.

"(GAP) signals a complete change in the people's relations with the land and with each other," said Yakin Erturk, a sociologist at Ankara's Middle Eastern Technical University.

"But technical developments lead to problems for the community, especially in an area of turmoil," she added.

Land reform authorities have begun the struggle to initiate peasants into the complexities of irrigated farming.

"Many do not come, they stay and work their land, and many just believe that more water means more crops and do not take in what I teach," said Omer Cetin, teacher of Mr. Karaliman's group.

He is grappling with language barriers in an area where educational standards

are low and many peasants speak Kurdish, Arabic or Syriac more readily than Turkish.

Harran farmers are locked in a near-feudal system in which tribal chiefs or big landowners known as agas own villages, take most of the harvest and control voting at election time.

Ms. Erturk said a modernised Aga system might suit the demands of irrigated farming, which needs investment in machinery and fertilisers beyond the reach of small farmers with big families.

Harran villagers still wear traditional baggy trousers and live in conical mud huts that dot the plain, but many have television sets and some even boast satellite dishes.

Mr. Unver said they must embrace new agriculture-related industries such as textiles, canning and fertilisers. He said irrigation and crop rotation could quadruple grain harvests and allow the introduction of soy beans, maize and other seed crops.

Fish will be farmed in the reservoir behind the Ataturk Dam and economic growth will attract more people to the region and stimulate a boom in construction, Mr. Unver predicted.

GAP eats up a third of Turkey's deficit-ridden budget and fuels inflation, now at an annual 73 per cent, but many of the project's touted benefits still lie in the future.

Turbines began generating electricity at the Ataturk Dam in 1992. But a money dispute has stalled work on the twin Sanliurfa tunnels, the world's longest at 26 km each, which will deliver water from the dam to the Harran Plain.

The official target for releasing the first water is now May, but GAP experts privately doubt the deadline will be met.

Some people, such as the 2,000 villagers relocated to the Spartan new township of Yeni Samsat, say the Ataturk Dam has flooded their ancestral homes and destroyed their livelihoods.

"I don't think the non-agricultural side of GAP is being sufficiently developed," Ms. Erturk said. "People are becoming unemployed without the wherewithal to live."

Some local people have grown sceptical that GAP will ever deliver its promise of transforming their depressed economy.

"Many people here are too poor, uneducated and lazy for the region to develop itself much," said Muslim Karabag, 27, who drives a minibus in Sanliurfa town.

Jailed Noriega spends days studying appeal, lawyers

By Jane Sutton
Reuter

MIAMI — Since his cocaine trafficking conviction in 1992, former Panamanian strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega has been widely portrayed as a solitary prisoner who devotes his days to spiritual pursuits and munching biscuits.

"Today, his favourite possessions are his daily package of Oreos cookies and a well-worn Bible," newswoman Diane Sawyer noted during a rare interview he granted to ABC television.

But his lawyers, who recently filed an appeal to overturn the conviction, paint a different picture. They told Reuters Mr. Noriega spends most of his time poring over his trial transcript and helping prepare his appeal.

"He's read every chapter, verse and word of the transcript," attorney Frank Rubino said. "I think he's very optimistic about the appeal. He's not one of these guys who lays down and dies, ever."

And, said Mr. Rubino, "if the truth be known, I eat most of his Oreos."

Mr. Noriega surrendered to U.S. troops during the December 1989 military invasion of Panama. He was convicted on eight counts of conspiracy and cocaine racketeering and is serving a 40-year term at a federal prison near Miami.

The lawyers said Mr. Noriega, is well treated although held in isolation in what has been nicknamed "the Dictator's Suite." He still blames President George Bush, who authorised the

Panama invasion, for his predicament, they said.

Mr. Noriega, 56, receives occasional visits from his wife Felicitad, who lives in Miami. One of his three daughters is practicing law in Venezuela, another is in school in the Dominican Republic and the third divides her time between Miami and Venezuela.

Mr. Noriega also keeps in touch with Cliff Branson, the Texas Evangelist who baptised him at the Miami federal courthouse during a break in Mr. Noriega's lengthy trial. For the ceremony, a baptismal font made of glass fiber and oak was brought into the courthouse so the general could be fully immersed.

Mr. Noriega's lawyers said his new faith in God is sincere.

"People make fun of jail-house religion conversions. But the reality is, when you're faced with loss of contact with your family and the loss of everything that you've worked for all your life, it makes sense that the only thing people can turn to is a spiritual dimension," said attorney Jon May.

Mr. Noriega's appeal was filed with the Federal Appeals Court in Atlanta in March and made public last week after a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) review because of his years on the U.S. intelligence payroll.

Court arguments are expected in the autumn. The hearing will be closed because it will include discussion of secret documents seized from Mr. Noriega's home during the invasion.

The appeal argues that by

excluding the documents from his trial, U.S. district judge William Hoeweler precluded him from defending himself. His lawyers said the documents show that Mr. Noriega amassed millions of dollars through secret U.S.-Panamanian operations including anti-drug operations U.S. officials helped organize.

The U.S. government claimed the money was from illegal drug profits. Paraphrasing his client, Mr. Rubino said, "the bottom line was, yes, I want to testify but... if I can't talk about how I made money, I can't talk about my income... what do I talk about, the weather?"

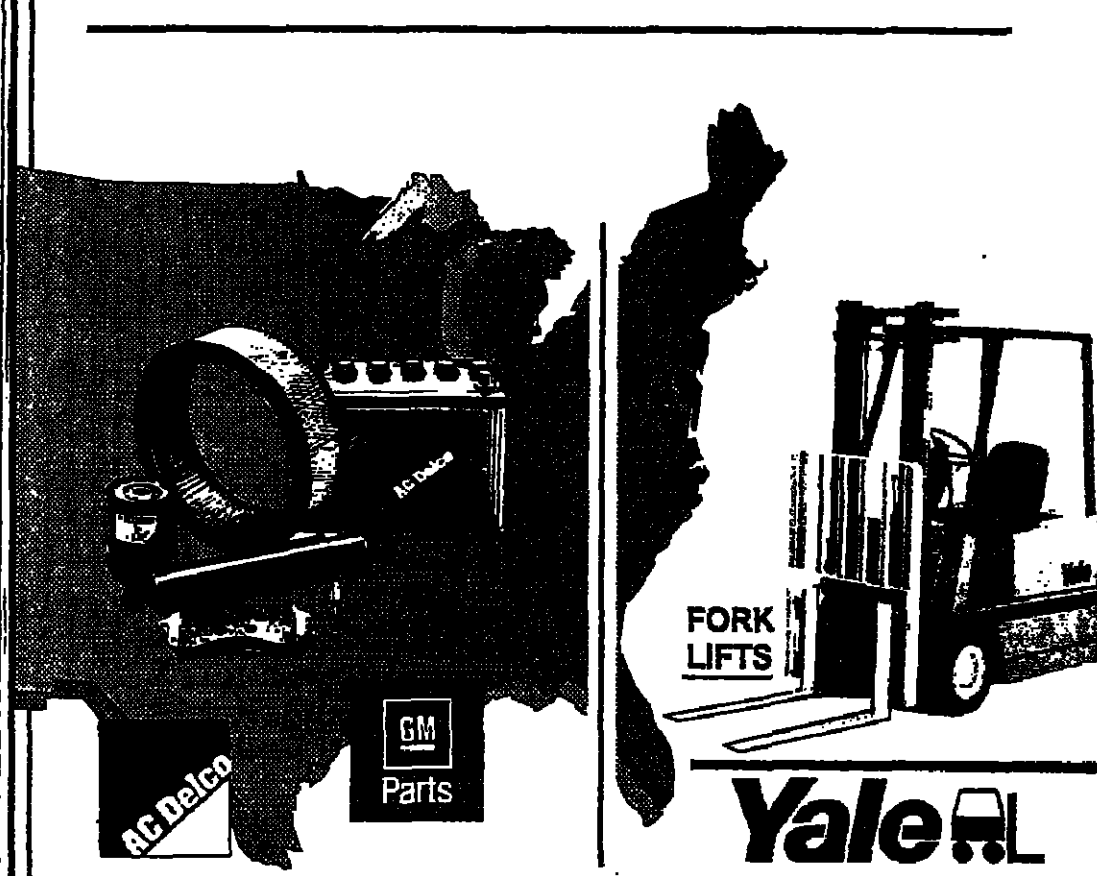
University of Miami law expert Bruce Winick said that if the secret documents are ambiguous, the government's need for secrecy is likely to prevail on appeal. "On the whole, the appellate courts try not to reverse, especially when there's been a long trial like this, with a very careful district judge," Mr. Winick said.

Mr. Noriega's appeal also seeks to overturn the conviction on grounds that he was entitled to diplomatic immunity and because the invasion was a "shocking" action to nab a suspect.

Judge Hoeweler ruled the invasion was part of a broad foreign policy to protect U.S. citizens in Panama.

Since his conviction in Miami, Mr. Noriega has been convicted twice in absentia in murder trials in Panama. One involved the death of an outspoken Noriega critic, the other the death of a rebel army officer who led a failed coup attempt.

FUAD ABUJABER & SONS



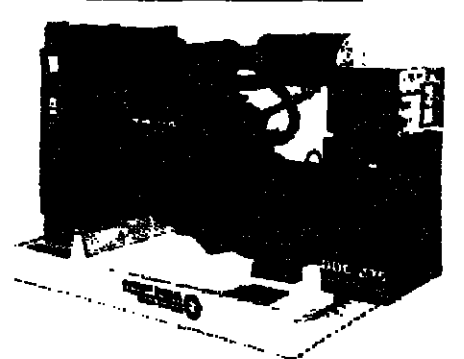
Availability of Spare Parts, after sales service, factory warranty

Agents & Distributors: **FUAD ABUJABER & SONS**

NORTH MARKA / Ring Road Tel.: 893020
ZARKA FREE ZONE Tel.: 09-916052

AMERICAN PROMOTION WEEK 94

Best Choice to Generate Power



DETROIT DIESEL

U.S. central bank raises rates again

WASHINGTON (R) — The Federal Reserve (Fed) has built some new barriers to inflationary pressures it believes are certain to intensify as the vibrant U.S. economy expands in the year ahead.

The Fed Monday sanctioned a ¼ per cent increase in the closely-watched federal funds rate that banks charge each other for overnight loans to 3.75 per cent.

In the process, according to analysts, the U.S. central bank made it clear again that it would pursue its own agenda even if it differed from the view from the White House. "I think the Fed again demonstrated its independence," said Michael Moran of Daiwa Securities.

The White House, which fears that if the Fed becomes too heavy-handed it will derail the recovery, refused, however, to be drawn into a public argument with the central bank.

White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said the administration believes the U.S. economy will continue to expand with modest inflation and that the Fed action was spawned by the strong recovery.

"Our view hasn't changed. We continue to see continued growth with very low inflation and will continue to operate on that assumption," Ms. Myers said.

However, she declined to be more precise, adding that the "Fed is an independent agency and we're not going to comment on their specific actions."

The Fed's independence has become an issue in recent months as pressure has been building on Capitol Hill for the central bank to be less secretive in its actions.

In fact, the Fed appeared to take this criticism to heart, again announcing its decision to raise rates rather than waiting to take actions in the markets to make its position known.

Analysts generally expect the central bank to raise short-term interest rates at least one more time this year. That increase could come as soon as May 17, at the next meeting of the Fed's policy market committee.

The Fed move is likely to lead to higher mortgage rates for home buyers and increased borrowing costs for credit card users, car buyers and corporations. It came on the heels of a string of economic indicators showing that growth remains strong.

That has sparked some worry at the Fed that the economy will soon begin straining against its capacity constraints, tempting companies to raise prices and workers to demand higher wages.

The economy soared at a seven per cent annual clip in the fourth quarter of last year — its best performance in 10 years, although growth has cooled off some since. The slowdown has not been as pronounced as had been widely expected, fanning fears at the Fed of future inflation.

As the White House is quick to point out, inflation so far does not appear to be a problem. Consumer prices rose just 2.5 per cent in the first quarter, compared with a 2.7 per cent increase in the last year.

But the Fed is looking ahead to next year and does not want to run the risk of throwing away the hard-fought gains it made in recent years in fighting inflation by keeping interest rates too low now.

Japan-Arab Gulf trade falls sharply

DUBAI (R) — Japan's trade with the six Arab Gulf oil states fell sharply in 1993 due to a fall in oil prices and a rise in the yen, official figures have shown. Figures released by the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) showed Japan's exports to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) fell by 8.4 per cent to \$8.8 billion from \$9.6 billion in 1992. "A sharp increase in price caused by the appreciation of the yen affected the demand for Japanese goods," the report said. Japanese imports — mainly oil — from the six states, fell by 7.9 per cent to \$23.6 billion from \$25.6 billion.

West urges E. Europe to keep pace of reform

ST. PETERSBURG (R) — Western finance ministers are urging eastern Europe to keep up a fast pace of reform.

Speaker after speaker at the annual meeting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) argued that those countries which had moved fast were already seeing the results, while those which had delayed would suffer anyway.

The Western ministers argued that the EBRD, set up to help eastern Europe on the transition from central planning to free markets, could succeed only if policies in the reforming countries were right.

But many acknowledged that the West could do more than offer exhortations, advice and cash, by opening up its markets to the products of eastern Europe's new private industries.

"Those countries that chose a comprehensive and radical approach to reform are now emerging from the first difficult period of transition," said Anne Wibble, outgoing chairwoman of the EBRD governors.

"Experience has shown that a critical mass of structural reform implemented with speed is the best way of promoting transformation," said Mr. Wibble, who is also Swedish finance minister.

Ms. Wibble noted that output was picking up in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Estonia and Latvia, and even, from a difficult starting point, Albania.

Poland was likely to enjoy its second year of growth of four per cent or more this year, she added.

Britain's Chancellor Kenneth Clarke, who arrived in St.

Petersburg from Warsaw where he could observe the recovery for himself, said Poland and the Czech Republic looked set to be the fastest growing major economies in Europe this year.

The message of the benefit of radical reform has taken on added urgency because of a growing number of voices in eastern Europe raised against free-market policies.

Reformed communists, in power in Poland and likely to be so soon in Hungary, have insisted they are committed to reform as the first post-revolutionary governments.

But populists from Slovakia to Russia have called for a gradual approach to ease the pain of higher prices and rising unemployment which come from liberalisation and restructuring.

U.S. Treasury Undersecretary Lawrence Summers, said there was no alternative to getting on rapidly with the hard work of stabilisation, liberalisation and privatisation. That recipe of fighting inflation, freeing prices and trade and selling off state firms was exactly what Czech Finance Minister Ivan Kocarik ascribed his country's success to.

He was speaking for the country many see as the model pupil of reform.

But Mr. Summers, himself a top economist, dismissed the idea that reforms had brought suffering.

"It is a grave error to blame reform for the pain caused by the collapse of the failed communist economic system. Where reform has been most rapid, suffering has been least, and those economies that have postponed reform have not avoided declining output or rising unemployment," he said.

Many speakers praised the Russians for bold and ambitious reforms, especially in privatisation, but others warned out countries of the former Soviet Union for failure to change.

"In a number of successor states to the former Soviet Union there was little evidence of willingness to embrace reforms," German Finance Minister Theo Waigel said.

Minister from East and West said reforming countries should not forget to set up targeted social safety nets to protect those suffering from reform as general subsidies were removed.

But the social costs of not reforming, for instance in inflation and stagnation, would be high, Ms. Wibble warned.

Deutsche Bank defensive over Schneider collapse

FRANKFURT (R) — Deutsche Bank A.G. Tuesday remained on the defensive over its role in the collapse of the Schneider property empire, saying it made no significant errors in granting loans to fugitive businessman Jurgen Schneider.

The country's biggest bank and Mr. Schneider's biggest creditor was accused of "gross negligence" as it continued to be the target of a barrage of criticism over how Mr. Schneider could amass bank debts of five billion marks (\$2.92 billion).

In an interview with the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Deutsche Bank board member George Krupp conceded the bank would review

its procedures for making large loans.

But he added, "we have no knowledge of grave mistakes at the bank."

Deutsche Bank has been criticised on the one hand by Frankfurt state prosecutors for holding back information relating to the demise of the billion-mark property group, a claim the bank vehemently denies.

In addition, the bank has been lambasted for being deceived by Mr. Schneider about the value of the properties for which he sought credits.

One of the most biting criticisms came in a commentary in the Tuesday edition of the respected Sueddeutsche Zeitung. The newspaper focussed on

the 415 million marks (\$242.6 million) Deutsche Bank lent to Mr. Schneider for the Zeil-Galerie, an up-market shopping centre in the Frankfurt city.

Deutsche Bank has said the documents provided by Mr. Schneider showed the centre would offer 20,000 square metres of space for rental purposes and was expected to bring in rent of 57 million marks (\$33.32 million) a year.

In fact the rentable space was only 9,000 square metres and the rent only eight million marks (\$4.68 million) a year.

The Sueddeutsche Zeitung added, "anyone who maintains he was unable to see through such a deceptive manoeuvre is at least admitting gross negligence."

Turkish businessmen criticise Ciller tax package

ANKARA (R) — Turkish businessmen fear Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's plans to impose one-off taxes as part of an austerity package could trigger a full-scale recession.

They voiced concern that her proposals to raise 70 trillion lira (\$2.1 billion) in new taxes could send some firms to the wall, accelerate capital flight and depress stocks and bonds.

Ms. Ciller wants to slap one-off taxes on second homes and luxury cars, and increase petrol tax and stamp duties, but businessmen reserve their main criticism for her plan for a tax on assets, expected to bring in 41 per cent of the new revenue.

"Net asset taxes may prompt savings to flow into non-taxable areas and foreign countries. They may lock the economy," Selami Sengul, a tax expert and auditor of the Capital Markets Board, told Reuters.

Ms. Ciller's conservative Social Democrat coalition government submitted a draft tax law to parliament last week as part of an economic rescue package unveiled on April 5.

Companies would pay an additional 1.5 per cent tax on their net assets or 0.5 per cent on gross revenues.

"Such a tax can bring trade and industrial firms to the point of closing down," Turkish Industrialists and Businessmen's Association (Tusiad), the main business lobby, said this week.

Tusiad advised the government not to tax assets, but to tax gross revenues in the financial sector and equities in others.

Apart from raising revenue, the government also sees the new taxes as a way to redistribute the overall tax burden by lowering the share of wage earners by five points to 43 per cent.

Mr. Sengul said asset taxes would force banks to reduce their investments in stocks and bonds. They would also lead to higher interest rates, more unemployment and slower economic activity.

"Financial institutions will dissolve their portfolios to pay net asset tax obligations. This will create a run on securities," he said.

A five per cent capital levy on earnings from government bonds, treasury bills and repurchase agreements, imposed in December, had destroyed the domestic borrowing market — the treasury's main source for financing widening budget gaps.

The government cancelled the levy in January amid chaos in the financial markets, but banks have since refused to roll over the debt and buy new state borrowing instruments.

Last year the government drafted three laws to increase tax revenue, equivalent to about 27 per cent of gross national product in 1993, but parliament approved only one of them.

It will apply to 1994 earnings, boosting the tax take in 1995.

Other parts of Ms. Ciller's rescue plan call for quick privatisation or closure of loss-making state firms, selling public property and slashing public spending.

EBRD lauded for reform, advised on future

ST. PETERSBURG (R) — The once beleaguered European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Monday received a vote of confidence from its shareholders on the first day of its annual meeting.

Governors from the member states unanimously praised reforms put in place last year by the London-based institution's new president, Jacques de Larosiere, who one Western governor said had "reinvented" the EBRD.

The remark, from U.S. Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, was typical and a marked contrast to last year's meeting in London where then president Jacques Attali faced allegations of profligacy and mismanagement.

"We are very pleased about events over the last year," Mr. Summers told a news conference. The U.S. administration remained convinced that the EBRD must be committed to the private sector and not become "just another development bank."

But — as is becoming traditional by EBRD annual meetings — many of the countries the bank operate in seized the chance to ask for more and better help.

Poland's central bank chief Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, for example, called on the bank to produce better-tailored products for different member countries.

In his own speech, Mr. De Larosiere promised to move closer to the people who need EBRD help and concentrate on private firms.

Governors later discussed the bank's future path at a closed meeting. The annual meeting ends Wednesday.

"It was a very good manifestation of endorsement of the priorities that have been worked out by the president," outgoing chairman of the board of governors, Sweden's Finance Minister Anne Wibble, said.

The EBRD was set up to channel financial help to the countries of eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. It aims particularly to aid the private sector, using its own small projects as catalysts to trigger investment from other sources.

Mr. De Larosiere said future activity aimed to improve the effectiveness of EBRD operations. This could include a more active approach towards equity investment, taking direct stakes in firms and projects in the countries where it operates.

This idea has the backing from many of the institution's governors — finance ministers and central bank heads.

Mr. Summers agreed that bank should be ready to take more stakes in firms in the region. "Now... it is time to think how the bank can further contribute... to extend its reach and strengthen its capacity," he said.

When the bank was set up, many economists had questioned the need for yet another institution channelling funds from rich countries to poorer ones, but ministers at the meeting welcomed the bank's role in assisting lending and economic reform.

"The bank now has every opportunity to become one of the leading financial and lending institutions for eastern Europe," Ukrainian Finance Minister Hrihory Pyatachenko said.

Mr. Wibble said the bank had emerged from last year's crisis in stronger shape.

Ms. Wibble, who is expected to be replaced after her one-year term by Spanish Economy Minister Pedro Solbes, said the bank should soon be able to step up operations after a year of consolidation.

"The bank's profitability is not our target as such," she said, "the real dividends will be a flourishing financial sector in the countries themselves."

China in fact is building two parallel systems, Mr. Wu said, an information resources network and an information telecommunications network.

Mr. Wu said the first would network databases of various types of information and data application systems for end-users. The second, he said, would be an "on-line operation of information resources and application systems via state-owned public telecommunications networks."

China completed the foundation of its first nationwide on-line system when the Chinapac network went into commercial operation in March.

Chinapac has more than 20,000 user nodes in 267 cities in all provinces including remote Tibet, Qinghai and Xinjiang — all linked digitally by fibre-optic cables or satellites. The network transmits data at 64,000 bits per second.

Mr. Wu gave no details.

China completed the foundation of its first nationwide on-line system when the Chinapac network went into commercial operation in March.

Chinapac has more than 20,000 user nodes in 267 cities in all provinces including remote Tibet, Qinghai and Xinjiang — all linked digitally by fibre-optic cables or satellites. The network transmits data at 64,000 bits per second.

Mr. Wu gave no details.

China completed the foundation of its first nationwide on-line system when the Chinapac network went into commercial operation in March.

Chinapac has more than 20,000 user nodes in 267 cities in all provinces including remote Tibet, Qinghai and Xinjiang — all linked digitally by fibre-optic cables or satellites. The network transmits data at 64,000 bits per second.

China unveils plan for nationwide data networks

BEIJING (R) — China's Telecoms Minister has unveiled plans to build two nationwide digital information networks to hasten economic construction.

But Posts and Telecommunications Minister Wu Jichuan gave no indication that Beijing would lift its ban on foreign investment in China's rapidly growing communications system.

Nor did he indicate whether China planned to ease recently enacted curbs on who should be allowed to use its fledgling

"information superhighway" and what they may use it for.

Mr. Wu nevertheless said that information exchange was as important to development as the rule of law as China tries to leapfrog its way out of technological backwardness.

"The establishment of a socialist market economy depends first on the building of a complete legal system and second on a well-informed economic information network," he wrote in the Communist

Party flagship People's Daily.

China in fact is building two parallel systems, Mr. Wu said, an information resources network and an information telecommunications network.

Mr. Wu said the first would network databases of various types of information and data application systems for end-users. The second, he said, would be an "on-line operation of information resources and application systems via state-owned public telecommunications networks."

China completed the foundation of its first nationwide on-line system when the Chinapac network went into commercial operation in March.

Chinapac has more than 20,000 user nodes in 267 cities in all provinces including remote Tibet, Qinghai and Xinjiang — all linked digitally by fibre-optic cables or satellites. The network transmits data at 64,000 bits per second.

Peanuts

I LOVE THE START OF THE BASEBALL SEASON!



THERE'S A CERTAIN ALMOST INDESCRIBABLE FEELING IN THE AIR...

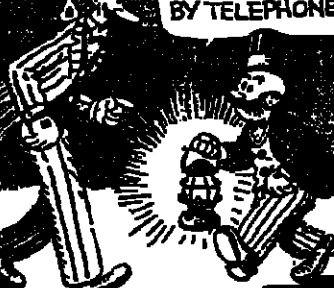


DEFEAT!



Mutt'n'Jeff

JEFF WHAT CHA DON'T WAY OUT HERE?



I'M CALLING ON A NEW GAL FOR THE FIRST TIME I DATED HER BY TELEPHONE!



WHAT CHA CARRYING A LANTERN FOR?



I GOTTA GO THROUGH THE WOODS! IT'S DARK WHERE SHE LIVES!



Algeria faces shortage of cash for imports

TUNIS (R) — Despite the prospect of billions of dollars saved through debt rescheduling, Algeria will still be short of some \$5.0 billion to pay for vital imports this year, the official Algerian news agency APS said Monday.

Algeria's central bank said Sunday that the North African country had applied formally to the Paris Club of creditors to reschedule its medium and long-term debt.

But APS, received in Tunis, said revenue from crude oil and gas sales plus the savings on debt service repayments would still leave Algeria far short of its import target for 1994.

APS said rescheduling meant that Algeria would pay \$5.5 billion debt servicing this year instead of \$9.5 billion on total medium and long-term debt. APS put the total debt eligible for rescheduling at \$14 billion.

Receipts from the sale of crude oil and gas — which provide Algeria with more than 95 per cent of its foreign

revenue — are estimated at \$8.0 billion, APS said.

This would leave Algeria with only \$3.0 billion to pay for its imports, it added.

The bill for purchasing food and the minimum raw materials to keep Algeria's factories running is an estimated \$8.0 billion, APS said.

Algeria would seek to cover the shortfall by applying to international institutions like the World Bank, the Arab Monetary Fund or its financial partners for "financial resources to cover its need for external financing," APS said.

It broke down Algeria's total foreign debt at \$24 billion in medium and long-term, debts and \$2 billion in short-term debts.

It said the rescheduling reduce Algeria's debt servicing by nearly \$4.0 billion in 1994 from \$7.7 billion in 1993.

APS hinted that Algeria might seek rescheduling of an additional \$5.0 billion through the Paris Club in the future.

Algeria also wants to reschedule its commercial debt.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY APRIL 26, 1994
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Be more agreeable today with associates as the Sun enters Taurus. Rise above some difficulties aspects and make this a productive day in spite of the obstacles. Rid yourself of disharmony.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study your monetary position and figure out a way to improve it. Don't waste time on unimportant matters which could until later. Be wise.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) State your aims to others and gain their cooperation in reaching them. Think of new ways to be more proficient at your assignments.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Plan the future more intelligently and become more satisfied. Know exactly where you stand and where you are headed with any projects you are involved with.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A plan you have in mind needs more study before going ahead with it. Show more consideration for others that you encounter.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Contact higher-ups you know early in the day and get the backing you need. One in particular can be of real help to you now if asked.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Situations arise today that can be advantageous for you if you are alert. Sideswipe one who could be detrimental to your progress.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A good time to go after a personal aim since the planets are favourable for you now. Plan to make improvements to your environment for the future.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can come to a far better understanding with associates at this time. Take advantage of a new situation at work which will be more productive.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Make sure a new plan you have in mind is well organized so that you can enjoy the benefits in the future for you and your family.

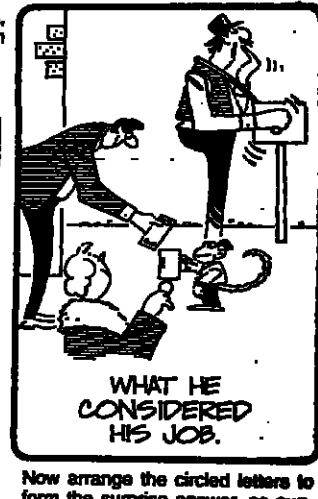
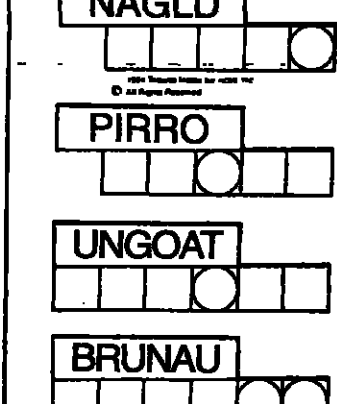
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Bring your finest talents to the attention of higher-ups and gain added benefits. Do some entertaining tonight and you will have fun.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Find more interests through which to express your best talents. But don't take any risks with your fine reputation which could get tarnished.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Use practical methods in handling important business matters for best results. Evening is fine for the cultural side of life for you.

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

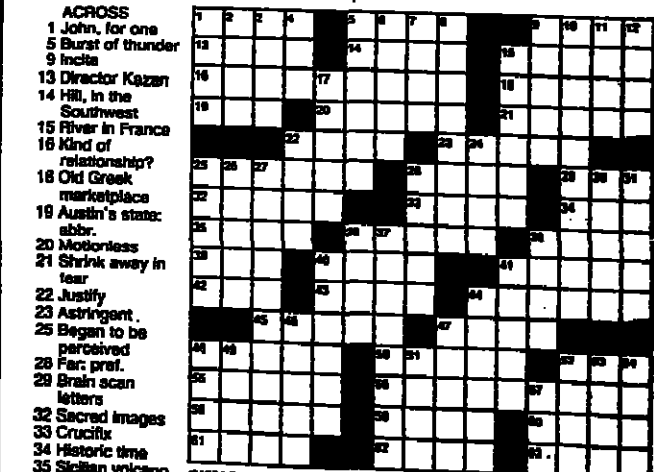


Print answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: SHYLY VISOR VESTRY GHETTO

Answer: What the romantic snake offered the cute serpent — LOVE AND HISSES

THE Daily Crossword by Frances Burton



- ACROSS
- John, for one
 - Burst of thunder
 - Isle
 - Director Kazan
 - Hit, in the Southwest
 - Fliver in France
 - Kind of relationship
 - Old Greek marketplace
 - Austin's state: abbr.
 - Began to be perceived
 - Justly
 - Aspirant
 - Begin to be perceived
 - Far: pref.
 - Brain scan letters
 - Sacred images
 - Crucifix
 - Historic time
 - Slitten volcano
 - Eastwood
 - Up (remain) short
 - Hetty weight
 - Old: long
 - The things here
 - Lark
 - Shapiro
 - Laughed heartily
 - Complaint
 - Northern European
 - Wan
 - Social climbers
 - Historic time
 - Seance sound
 - four
 - Timber
 - Measure?
 - evil
 - Agitated
 - Consumer
 - Goose: say
 - Take: adv.
 - Without water
- DOWN
- Gingrich
 - Lily plant
 - Fruitless girl
 - Consumes
 - Copied
 - Cut back
 - Love in Madrid
 - Temple in France
 - Palm starches
 - Boycot?
 - Coverturing
 - Bring up
 - Wan
 - 17: Miles
 - Magical
 - March
 - Ease carefully
 - 24: Trougher
 - Sing
 - performance?
 - Threfold
 - Minute
 - Played for
 - Honey
 - State
 - Follow
 - Religion of Japan
 - survey
 - Bugs Bunny
 - Controls
 - Pillage
 - Church section
 - Vatnitzer
 - Not any
 - Thorny bush
 - Vicinity
 - Saucy
 - Homely

S. Africa concludes election deal

PRETORIA (R) — South Africa's political leaders struck a deal Tuesday to bring Zulu royalists into next week's historic all-race elections, sources close to the talks said.

The leaders, negotiating against a background of surging violence in a black township on the fringe of Johannesburg, were expected to announce their deal formally later in the day.

"Within an hour the big news will come. Why do you think they have called (Independent Electoral Commission head) Judge (Johann) Kriegler... it is because Inkatha will officially join the election process," one source told reporters.

The deal, worked out during crisis talks in Pretoria on Monday and Tuesday, will bring the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party into the April 26-28 elections.

"This is the big news South Africa has been waiting for. No more civil war. No more war-talk," said a government source.

Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, who has been holding out for virtual self-rule in the Zulu heartland of KwaZulu-Natal, had been boycotting the poll.

His nephew King Goodwill Zwelithini had said Zulus

should not vote in the poll which will end three centuries of white domination.

Mr. Buthelezi, President F.W. de Klerk and officials of the African National Congress, which is favoured to win the polls, held several hours of talks Monday.

ANC leader Nelson Mandela, almost certain to be South Africa's first black president, joined the discussions at the union buildings in Pretoria Tuesday.

Witnesses in Natal said Inkatha had started putting up election posters in the port of Durban in Natal.

Some sources said the deal could allow Mr. Buthelezi to take part in a national ballot. But others said there might only be time for him to fight provincial elections.

One potential problem was amending millions of ballot papers to include Inkatha. A total of 80 million ballots have been printed for the national poll to elect a government of national unity and provincial legislatures.

The Zulu king has been demanding sovereign authority over South Africa's 8.5 million Zulus, the country's largest ethnic group. Sources close to the talks said the deal included constitutional guarantees on

the future of the Zulu monarchy.

In the black township of Tokoza, South African security forces, Zulu hostel dwellers and ANC gunmen fought an intense gunbattle Tuesday.

Fighting centred around the Angola Hostel, home to migrant Zulu workers, and spilled in to surrounding streets and alleys where ANC supporters live. At least one person was shot dead there, following the shooting of a news photographer Monday.

The weekend death toll in the black townships around the commercial capital Johannesburg was 19 — the highest since February when the South African Defence Force was sent in to crack down on killings.

South Africa's fledgling national peacekeeping force, made up of regular troops, troops from outgoing black homelands and former guerrillas, took over in the area last Wednesday.

More than 15,000 South Africans have died in political violence since 1990 when Mr. de Klerk began dismantling apartheid.

Much of the recent violence has been in the Zulu heartland of KwaZulu-Natal where almost 240 people have been killed since Mr. de Klerk im-

posed a state of emergency there on March 31.

A top South African news photographer was killed and two working for international media were wounded by gunfire Monday.

They were caught in cross-fire as rival ANC and Inkatha gunmen battled in Tokoza outside Johannesburg. A soldier from the National Peacekeeping Force was wounded in the same incident, witnesses said.

Ken Oosterbroek of the Star, a Johannesburg newspaper, died in a burst of gunfire from a Zulu migrant workers' hostel around which sporadic shooting had centred all morning. Reuters TV cameraman Mark Chisholm said.

Mr. Oosterbroek last week won a South African Press Photographer-Of-The-Year Award.

Greg Marinovich, a South African working for Newsweek magazine, was hit in the chest and underwent surgery at Natal's Spruit Hospital.

Staff said Mr. Marinovich, a Pulitzer Prize-winner for his work in township, was "stable."

Photographer Juda Ngunya, of Reuters, the World News and Information Organisation, received a flesh wound in an arm.



Ken Oosterbroek, one of South Africa's top news photographers, is held by fellow photographer

Gary Barnard of the Johannesburg Star after he was killed by police gunfire in the Tokoza black township of Johannesburg (AFP photo)

Rwandan troops shell refugees; 20 killed

NAIROBI (AP) — Rwandan army troops fired mortar rounds into a U.N.-guarded stadium sheltering thousands of people Tuesday, killing about 20 and wounding 50, a Red Cross official said.

U.N. efforts to achieve a ceasefire and bring food and medicine to victims of Rwanda's ethnic bloodbath were almost totally paralysed, said Abdul Kabia, executive director of U.N. forces in Rwanda.

Mr. Kabia said 20 or 30 shells landed in and around the National Stadium. One landed on the roof of U.N. Headquarters, 150 metres from the stadium but didn't explode, Mr. Kabia said. "They are defusing it now," he said.

"We do not have the ability to carry out our humanitarian activities," Mr. Kabia said.

The government and rebels had agreed to make the airport neutral ground so the United Nations could ship in plane loads of food and medicine, but that agreement col-

lapsed Tuesday, Mr. Kabia said.

The army, dominated by the majority Hutu tribe, announced it wants to locate its troops at the airport, he said. "This would make our positions vulnerable to fire," he said.

The Tutsi-controlled Rwandan Patriotic Front, meanwhile, said all its preconditions for a ceasefire were non-negotiable, Mr. Kabia said.

The preconditions include an end to atrocities by Hutu gangs, the disbanding of the Hutu-nationalist Presidential Guard, and the arrest of those responsible for atrocities.

Tanzania offered to host peace talks Saturday. The offer was transmitted to the warring factions by the U.N. Command in Rwanda but they hadn't responded yet, Mr. Kabia said.

"It is my hope that the Tanzanians succeed, but... the attitude of both sides on the ground is not responsive to

mediation at this point," he said.

The shelling of the stadium occurred as some 8,500 people camped there under the protection of 500 Bangladeshi U.N. troops.

The wounded were trucked out to a hospital by U.N. troops, who suffered no casualties, Mr. Kabia said. The 50 injured were treated by the Red Cross, said Jean-Luc Thevoz, the Red Cross spokesman in Geneva.

Most of the refugees at the stadium are members of the minority Tutsi ethnic group who had fled their homes in fear of killer gangs of the Hutu tribe.

The Bangladeshi troops protecting the stadium were among 2,500 U.N. blue helmets deployed in Rwanda under a Tanzanian-brokered peace agreement reached last August. The accord collapsed after Rwanda's president was killed on April 6 in a mysterious plane crash.

Khmer Rouge claims Pailin retaken

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodian Khmer Rouge rebels have recaptured their former headquarters in western Pailin, one month after the government claimed to have made it their own. Phnom Penh-based guerrilla officials said Tuesday.

"We recaptured Pailin today, April 19 at 12:45 p.m. we seized eight tanks and destroyed seven," one official said, adding that government soldiers had "fled in disarray across their own minefields."

The local Khmer Rouge office was still compiling details about the counter-attack, he said, refusing to give his name.

There was no immediate

official response from the government and no independent confirmation of the Khmer Rouge claim.

Cambodia's top army commander, General Ke Kim Yan, his deputy, Lieutenant-General Pol Saroeun, Defence Minister Tea Banh and Second Prime Minister Hun Sen had left Phnom Penh earlier and were meeting in Battambang Tuesday, government aides said.

Battambang was the government's forward base for the capture of Pailin from the Khmer Rouge on March 19.

Fighting between the rebels and army units had been reported within a 15 kilometres radius of the town ever since.

Asked to comment on the military situation in Pailin, one senior Cambodian army commander said: "For the time being I can't confirm that Pailin has been recaptured by the Khmer Rouge. I've asked the general staff about this news but I haven't received any confirmation."

"I only know now that the situation at Pailin is very confusing — you will know for sure in one or two days," said General Chum Chheang, director of the Department of International Relations for the Defence Ministry.

Interior Minister General Sin Sen told Reuters that fighting was continuing in Pailin town.

Indian troops raid militant hideouts; 20 killed

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Troops stormed a suspected militant hideout in a residential neighbourhood in Srinagar and one person was shot and killed, officials said.

Elsewhere in Jammu-Kashmir state, 19 suspected militants were killed Monday in some of the worst clashes this year. Four guerrillas were fatally shot when they attacked soldiers during a search operation in Badgam, a small town 20 kilometres (12 miles) from Srinagar. Four others were killed in a similar encounter in Bandipur town.

The sudden spurt in search operations signals a new toughness on the part of the military. The government has said it would send more soldiers to Kashmir to help the 300,000-strong force there to fight the four-year-old separatist insurgency.

Soldiers wearing flak jackets surrounded the Batmaloo neighbourhood with armoured vehicles and asked residents to assemble on the road and in a school building before storming a militant base inside a building.

Troops found 13 sets of Indian army uniforms, one rocket-propelled grenade, several kilograms (pounds) of explosives and an AK-56 assault rifle. I. Ramamohun Rao, a spokesman for the Jammu-Kashmir government said in New Delhi.

Rafiq Ahmad, an activist of the Hizbul Mujahideen, one of the biggest guerrilla groups, was fatally shot while trying to evade arrest during the search, officials said. But residents alleged that Mr. Ahmad was shot after he was arrested.

Japanese coalition falters again in search for new prime minister

TOKYO (R) — The search for a new Japanese prime minister ground through its eleventh day Tuesday with leaders of the unwieldy ruling coalition once again arguing themselves to a standstill.

After countless delays and a near-collapse of the alliance, its leaders came close to ironing out policy differences that would have paved the way for the appointment of Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata to succeed departing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

But then the talks ran aground over the wording of the coalition's position on tax reform in the new policy platform.

The coalition's mainstream conservatives, led by Ichiro Ozawa, demanded the policy statement include a pledge to increase indirect taxes to lessen the burden of direct taxes of Japanese salary earners.

The opposing camp, led by the Socialists, insisted the pledge be left out.

Socialist Party leaders were due to meet early Wednesday to decide on a final course of action, said party spokesman Koji Masuda.

Asked what the main topic of conversation would be, he replied: "It'll be the sales tax, won't it?"

Coalition negotiators were due to meet later in the hope of resolving the latest impasse and calling a parliamentary vote to elect the next prime minister Thursday, not Wednesday as originally planned.

Mr. Hosokawa, who resigned on April 8 amid a growing scandal over personal loans, remains as caretaker until his successor is found.

Earlier Tuesday, the coalition bridged its differences on another key policy issue — how to deal with North Korea and its suspected nuclear weapons programme.

Alliance members agreed to support the United Nations in its policy towards Pyongyang and cooperate with the United States and South Korea within the limits of its pacifist constitution.

Mr. Ozawa's conservatives retracted their demand that Japan consider revising its laws to let its military join any U.S. naval blockade against the Stalinist state, news reports said. In a related development, a

key opposition figure announced he was abandoning plans to launch a new party and seek the premiership, a move that could have displaced the 58-year-old Hata as the leading candidate.

Ex-Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe dropped his plan to leave the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) after it became evident that few supporters would join him.

"I can't support the coalition," Mr. Watanabe told reporters. "So I'm going to stay in my party to help reform it." With Mr. Watanabe out of the picture, Mr. Hata has emerged as the leading candidate to win the vote in parliament and become Japan's sixth prime minister in five years.

Mr. Watanabe, 70, had hoped to strike a deal with the coalition by offering to bring over a large group of LDP defectors in exchange for endorsement of his candidate for prime minister.

The LDP, which ruled Japan for 38 years until its election defeat in mid-1993, has been ravaged by defections triggered by Mr. Hosokawa's resignation.

Nixon in intensive care after stroke

NEW YORK (R) — Former President Richard Nixon was in stable condition in a New York hospital early Tuesday after suffering a stroke, his spokeswoman said.

Mr. Nixon, 81, the only president to resign his office, was admitted for observation and treatment with anticoagulants.

"He had just come down for dinner when it happened. He's in stable condition now," said spokeswoman Kim Taylor in a telephone interview from his home in Park Ridge, New Jersey.

Ms. Taylor said Mr. Nixon's daughter, Tricia, was in the area when the former president was rushed to New York Hospital/Cornell Medical Center. His other daughter, Julie Nixon Eisenhower, was on her way from Pennsylvania.

Mr. Nixon's wife, Pat, died last year.

"This is of course a very shocking thing. I think all Americans should now recall how much he has done for our country," Mr. Nixon's secretary of state, Henry Kissinger, told reporters in Los Angeles. Dr. Kissinger said Pat Nixon's death had contributed to the ex-president's ill health.

"That was a really shattering experience for him and that took its toll. And the years have taken their toll," Dr. Kissinger said.

New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani rushed to the hospital but was unable to visit Mr. Nixon.

"At this point, he's not able to speak or see anyone. He's in stable condition but he's not spoken yet he's not able to speak," Mr. Giuliani told reporters. Adding that doctors remained "optimistic, because he's in stable condition."

Mr. Giuliani's spokesman, Manny Papir, said the mayor had spoken with Tricia Cox Nixon at the hospital but that the former president's doctors had vetoed a bedside visit saying "it was not the best thing to do."

Mr. Nixon's office said the former president suffered the stroke at his Park Ridge home at about 5:45 p.m. EDT (2145 GMT) and was taken by ambulance to New York, where he was admitted to the hospital's intensive care unit.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. sends reinforcements to Macedonia

SKOPIJE, Macedonia (AP) — The United States reinforced its only peacekeeping presence in former Yugoslavia, sending 46 soldiers to patrol this impoverished republic's border with Serbia. The soldiers — the first of 180 infantrymen who will replace Swedish troops on a six-month tour — flew into Skopje past 6,000-foot (2,000-metre) snow-capped peaks on a U.S. Air Force C-130 transport plane. Their arrival will increase to more than 300 the number of U.S. troops keeping watch over a rugged, ill-defined border that U.N. patrols have occasionally crossed unwittingly. Macedonia, a republic of two million people, was the only piece of former Yugoslavia to break away peacefully. U.S. army troops have manned observation posts on a 25-kilometre-long (15-mile-long) stretch of border since July 1993. They have reported frequently seeing and talking to Serb border patrols but no hostilities.

Gonzalez pledges to fight corruption

MADRID (AP) — His government dogged by scandals, Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez tried to take the bull by the horns Tuesday when he announced new measures to fight corruption in his opening address to parliament during the annual state of the nation debate. "The government, fully assuming its responsibilities, considers it imperative to confront these problems and restore society's confidence," said Mr. Gonzalez. Throughout the day-long debate — predicted to be one of the most difficult he has had to face in 11 years in office — Mr. Gonzalez was expected to be assailed by opposition deputies over a recent wave of allegations that Socialist politicians and their allies have used public office for personal gain. The latest and most serious scandal concerns former Bank of Spain Governor Mariano Rubio, who is alleged to have obtained some 130 million pesetas (\$920,000) from insider trading while governor and not declared the money on his tax returns.

Poll: Mexico PRI candidate ahead

MEXICO CITY (R) — A poll published Monday in the state-owned El Nacional newspaper showed the Mexican ruling party's presidential candidate leading by a wide margin, backed by nearly a third of the people surveyed. The poll showed Ernesto Zedillo, the new candidate of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) since last month's assassination of candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio, was favoured by 32 per cent of the 1,100 people surveyed. The presidential candidate for the left-leaning Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, was second with 12 per cent support and conservative National Action Party (PAN) candidate Diego Fernandez de Cevallos was favoured by 10 per cent. The figures show a slight dip in the popularity of the PRI candidate since Mr. Colosio was shot dead on March 23 while campaigning in the northern city of Tijuana. Twenty-eight per cent of those surveyed were undecided or stated no preference and the others supported smaller parties.

Gorbachev 'knew he would be toppled'

MOSCOW (AP) — Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said that shortly after launching his reformist perestroika policy, he feared he would eventually be toppled like one of his predecessors, Nikita Khrushchev. "We remembered the experience of Khrushchev, but we underestimated the reactionary forces of the past," Mr. Gorbachev told a conference commemorating the 100th anniversary of Khrushchev's birth, which fell Sunday. Mr. Khrushchev is best remembered for his so-called "thaw," a dramatic departure from the years of Stalinist terror that began with a secret speech to a Communist Party congress in 1956. Mr. Khrushchev proceeded to loosen the regime's grip and introduced certain freedoms of speech, but left the structure and ideology of the absolutist Soviet state intact. He was ousted in 1964 by more conservative Communist Party apparatchiks and sent into forced retirement until his death in 1971. Mr. Gorbachev launched his own policy of reforms, known as perestroika or restructuring, in 1985. Two years later, he resurrected Khrushchev's name from official disgrace. At the conference, organised by his private foundation, Mr. Gorbachev said Khrushchev had a "great influence" on all Soviet reformers, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

U.S., S. Korea plot strategy over N. Korea

SEOUL (R) — Senior South Korean and U.S. officials agreed Tuesday to press for U.N. sanctions against North Korea unless the defiant Stalinist state allowed full international nuclear inspections.

South Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo met Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Robert Galucci to discuss ways to resolve the long-running dispute over the North's suspected nuclear weapons development programme.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman declined to give details of the meeting, but state radio and Yonhap News Agency said Mr. Han and Mr. Galucci had agreed that gaining full access to North Korean nuclear plants was the most important issue at stake.

They agreed that if the North continued to refuse access to its suspected nuclear plants, the United Nations Security Council would have no option but to impose sanctions.

Seoul and Washington accuse North Korea of trying to build an arsenal of Atomic weapons and intelligence sources suggest the Stalinist state has already developed one or two warheads.

Pyeonggang denies the

charge, but refuses to allow full inspections of its nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry was to arrive in Seoul later Tuesday for two days of talks on military readiness and political strategy on the peninsula.

Mr. Perry said he welcomed North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung's vow, made to foreign reporters during weekend celebrations for his 82nd birthday, that Pyongyang was not developing nuclear weapons, but said international verification was necessary.

"That would be just wonderful news if it turned out to be true. I take it at face value until such time as it can be verified," Mr. Perry told reporters while en route to Seoul.

South Korea's anti-U.S. student activists and dissidents have protested against Mr. Perry's trip to Seoul because of his hardline statements in recent days against North Korea, thus raising tensions on the peninsula.

A group of 30 representatives from a nationwide dissident organisation staged a brief demonstration Tuesday outside the U.S. embassy in central Seoul and gave embassy official a letter addressed to

Washington, opposing Mr. Perry's visit and the deployment of Patriot anti-missile batteries in the South.

More than 40 Patriot air defence missile launchers with as many as 200 missiles arrived at South Korea's southern port of Pusan Monday and will be deployed in the South within weeks. Mr. Perry told reporters shortly before his departure for Seoul.

The United States has also sent Apache anti-tank helicopters to the South.

North Korea reacted bitterly Tuesday to the shipping of the Patriots, calling the move "dangerous provocative acts."

"No strong arm works with us. Should the United States and its lackeys dare provoke a war, we will answer it with a decisive counter blow to defend our Socialist system and the dignity of our republic," the North Korean Workers' Party newspaper Rodong Sinmun said.

The North also denounced Mr. Perry's visit to Seoul.

"There is no doubt that the bellicose U.S. military boss and the 'civilian' war maniacs of South Korea will have nothing to discuss but war when they sit face to face and peace reunification of Korea will

subsequently face a more grave threat," the North Korean daily said in a report carried by the official North Korean Central News Agency, monitored in Tokyo.

The North Korean president in an interview with the Washington Times Tuesday said that his country does not have the need, the will or the ability to make nuclear weapons.

"We will never have nuclear weapons. I promise you. Who can we use them against?" Mr. Kim said.

Mr. Kim said the Patriots missiles the United States sent to South Korea because of rising tensions on the Korean peninsula "are war weapons regardless of their use."

The North Korean leader also said Japan was "moving to arm herself with nuclear weapons" and this "presents a great threat to the peace and security" in Asia.

Asked about a North Korean diplomat who threatened North Korea would turn the South into a "sea of fire," Mr. Kim replied that the diplomat said "something which was out of place."

"Actually, we don't want any war," he said. "Those who like war are completely out of their mind."

Message in bottle floats 7,000 km to holiday offer

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — A message in a wine bottle tossed from a cruise ship off northern Japan took nearly six years to float 7,000 kilometres (4,350 miles) to Sibiu, a palm-fringed resort island off west Malaysia's east coast. Penned by John Mutimer, the message read, "home before Christmas", and simply asked the bottle's finder to contact Mr. Mutimer at 64 Macedon Road, Lower Templestowe, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3107. Mr. Mutimer himself is in for a surprise should he contact the resort where a guest found the bottle — a dream holiday offer at Sea Gypsy village on tropical Sibiu Island, off the east coast of the Malay peninsula and north of Singapore. Russell Fryer, 34, one of the resort's owners, told Reuters the resort has written to Mr. Mutimer but has not yet received a reply. "If he comes, we'll give him a free holiday," said Mr. Fryer. Mr. Mutimer's bottle, in February, the message, dated Sept. 1, 1988, said the bottle was being thrown off the Royal Viking Star. Enclosed with the message was a \$1 note.

Hall to quit talk show

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Arsenio Hall is quitting his fading television talk show, which fell victim in ratings and prestige to late-night competitors David Letterman and Jay Leno, sources said Monday. The talk show host has sent a letter to Kerry McCullough, chairman of Paramount's television group, saying he wants to end The Arsenio Hall Show, according to a Paramount executive who spoke only on condition of anonymity. No date for the final show has been determined, the source added. The show debuted Jan. 3, 1989, turning the hip black host into a national celebrity. Another source close to the nationally syndicated show who also requested anonymity said that Hall planned to tell his staff of his decision to quit after the taping of Monday night's show. Telephone calls seeking comment from Paramount, the show's producer, and from Hall were not immediately returned. Hall's six-year contract was due to expire this December and there had not been any active negotiations with Paramount on renewing the deal, the Paramount executive said.

Beauty And The Beast bows on Broadway

NEW YORK (R) — Are the critics going to find a beauty or a beast? That's the question Broadway was asking Monday as the hype and hoopla whipped up into an almost fever pitch for the star-studded opening night of Walt Disney's Beauty And The Beast. And at no time in the 100-year history of Broadway theatre has that question meant more for a single show or the future of Broadway, according to experts. At stake is the fate of Disney's reported \$11.8 million investment in Beauty And The Beast and whether the entertainment giant will produce similar theatre extravaganzas in the future as Disney company chief Michael Eisner has repeatedly said Disney wants to do. The bigger question is whether audiences will come to expect future Broadway shows to have all the pizzazz of this one — from fireworks to David Copperfield-like magic stunts. In fact, as many insiders have quipped: "Beauty And The Beast has so many special effects and scene changes it makes Phantom Of The Opera seem like it's standing still."

Ballooning nuns get unexpected church landing

BATON ROUGE, LA. (R) — The first ever hot-air balloon ride for two Haitian nuns visiting the United States ended Monday in a church parking lot. Eight miles from their destination. "This is probably the safest location we could have found," Sister Althea Jonis told Reuters minutes after the balloon scraped over the branches of huge live oaks and narrowly cleared a chain-link fence at Trinity Episcopal Church just before dusk. Pilot George Richard, who was giving the nuns a free ride from across town, said changing winds and dwindling fuel forced the unscheduled landing area. "It was nifty," Sister Althea said.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwait speaker rejects Iraqi invitation

KUWAIT (R) — The speaker of the Kuwaiti parliament on Tuesday rejected an Iraqi invitation to visit Baghdad for talks on post-Gulf war disputes. "Whatever Iraqi officials said in the past we never bothered to reply. But this time we answer. So that they will not ask again," Speaker Ahmad Al Saadoun, an opposition veteran, told parliament's weekly session. "We tell them that the invitation was heard by the Kuwaiti people and we turned it down," he said. The Iraqi parliament last week invited Kuwaiti parliamentarians to visit Baghdad for talks on outstanding issues, especially the fate of people missing since Iraq's 1990-91 occupation whom Kuwaitis believe are still held by Baghdad. The Iraqi assembly denied that Baghdad holds any prisoners of war from the occupation period. Mr. Saadoun said Iraq's offer appeared to be a bid to exploit policy differences between the Kuwaiti government and the opposition-dominated parliament. But on post-war issues involving Iraq, government and parliament were united. Mr. Saadoun said. "This is a message to all the world," commented Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah in brief remarks thanking Mr. Saadoun for his comments.

Sudan sends election monitors to S. Africa

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has sent 19 officials to monitor South Africa's first all-race elections next week, a Khartoum newspaper reported on Tuesday. The government-owned Al Nasr said the officials left Sudan for South Africa on Monday. The officials from the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the attorney-general's chamber and the national assembly were chosen because of their experience in elections in Sudan, it added.

54 appointed to Sudan's parliament

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese leader Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir has appointed 54 new members to the country's unelected parliament, the Transitional National Assembly. The decree, read on state television late Monday, said they were to fill places vacated by members of parliament who were given executive posts following the redrawing of Sudan into more states. Several of the 330-member assembly have in the past two months been appointed governors and ministers in the 26 states created in Sudan in February.

U.N. shocked at staff death in Somalia

GENEVA (R) — The U.N. refugee agency on Tuesday expressed shock at the killing of a staff member in Somalia and confirmed that a relief team of 10 people was being evacuated from the western town of Afmadow. It identified the man shot dead on Monday as his plane flew into Afmadow as Alhadi Kebba Sanneh, 53, a Gambian national (see page 2). "I am deeply shocked at this terrible incident," Sadako Ogata, U.N. high commissioner for refugees, was quoted as saying in a statement issued overnight in Geneva. "I hope that this death will remind Somali leaders of the tragedy into which Somalia has been plunged and encourage them to renew their determination to find peace," she added. A spokesman in Geneva confirmed reports from Mogadishu that the agency would evacuate a team of 10 aid workers on Tuesday.

New date set for Sidon trial

SIDON (AP) — The trial of two Palestinians accused of the 1984 killing of Libyan dissident in Germany resumed Tuesday before the judge ordered a three-week recess at the prosecution's request. Judge Ahmad Moallem of the criminal court in Sidon, provincial capital of South Lebanon, set a new session May 10 after a 10-minute court appearance Tuesday by the two suspects — Yasser Chreidi, 34, and Ghassan Ayoub, 38. Chreidi and Ayoub are on trial for the assassination of Mustafa Ashke, a Libyan dissident shot dead by unknown attackers on a West Berlin street March 29, 1984. His attackers fled. Chreidi and Ayoub, two Palestinian residents of Lebanon who have lived in Germany in the 80s, were charged with the murder. German authorities, which learned of Chreidi's and Ayoub's involvement from East German Stasi secret police files released after the 1989 collapse of the Berlin Wall, has demanded the extradition of Chreidi. Lebanon and Germany have no extradition treaty and it is up to the Lebanese government to decide whether to extradite. Chreidi also is accused of masterminding the April 5, 1986, bombing of the La Belle discotheque in Germany. The West Berlin disco is frequented by off-duty U.S. troops stationed in West Berlin.

Bomb explodes in Yugoslav embassy car in Ankara

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — A bomb exploded in the parked car of a Yugoslav diplomat early Tuesday, causing damage but no injuries, Anatolia news agency said. The vehicle belonged to Zivorad Simic, first secretary of the Yugoslav embassy. The bomb detonated about 4:30 a.m., destroying the car, sparking a fire and damaging two nearby vehicles. Firefighters put out the blaze. The car was parked in front of Mr. Simic's apartment building in downtown Ankara. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. But, there is growing animosity in Turkey towards the Serbians because of their attacks in Bosnia. Turks feel close to the Bosnian Muslims because of historical ties.

Israeli parents: No detainee release until PLO gives details

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The parents of three missing Israeli soldiers demanded Tuesday that the government block the release of Palestinian prisoners until the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) provides information on the whereabouts of their sons.

American-born Yona Baumeil, 66, said he and the other parents would keep up a portest fast they began Sunday until PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat tells what he knows. The three soldiers — Zachariah Baumeil, Yehuda Katz and Zvi Feldman — disappeared during a tank battle in Lebanon in June 1982, at the time of Israel's invasion. The elder Baumeil said that for up to a year after that his son was held by the PLO.

"We are in this for the duration. The families are very determined now," said the retired Baumeil, as he stood on the sidewalk opposite Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's office.

Around his neck, he wore half of his son's dog tag, given to him by Mr. Arafat in December, along with a promise the other half would follow soon. It never came.

The parents' protest, which has garnered broad support among Israelis, could prove embarrassing to the government which is in the midst of negotiating a timetable for the release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners.

U.S. revises rules of Iraq engagement

ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska (R) — The Defence Department has revised its rules of engagement in Iraq in an attempt to avoid the fatal blunder that killed 26 people last week.

Defence Secretary William Perry said procedures for identifying slow-moving helicopters before attacking them were now more detailed. It will take longer to shoot down a helicopter than a plane in the "no-fly" zone set up by the allies over northern Iraq to protect Kurds from the Iraqi military.

"We have revised the Iraq procedures," he told reporters travelling with him to South Korea before making a refuelling stop here Monday.

"The reason you can have more precautions and take longer on (identifying) a helicopter is you simply have more time," Mr. Perry said.

He declined to be specific on the new rules. Mr. Perry said it will take weeks to determine the exact cause of what led two U.S. F-15C fighter jets to shoot down two U.S. military helicopters Thursday. The fighters wrongly identified the craft as Iraqi helicopters believed to be violating the "no-fly" zone.

The jets had the helicopters in sight, but Mr. Perry suggested that 15 Americans, five Kurds and six military officers from Turkey, Britain and France died in the shoot-down because not enough time was taken to check the slow-moving aircraft.

"As I reviewed the procedures (in Iraq) in some detail and compared them with the procedures we had put together in Bosnia, the thing that was lacking was a discrimination between helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft, combat aircraft," he said.

"And so we changed the procedures. We have revised the Iraq procedures to reflect that same (Bosnia) requirement for greater caution and greater checks and balances in the case of helicopters," Mr. Perry expected to begin

receiving "some significant findings on elements" of the accident investigation this week, "but we are certainly several weeks away from having anything like a final report on it."

Both U.S. and allied fighter jets are patrolling "no-fly" zones over Shiites in the south from the Iraqi government forces. But Mr. Perry did not say whether the new rules applied in the southern zone.

Mr. Perry also said that the remains of 12 of the 15 American victims would be flown home from Germany via Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, on Tuesday and that a memorial service would be held for all 26 victims early next week at Arlington Memorial Cemetery near Washington.

An air force official said Monday the crucial breakdown in the shoot-down was misidentification of the helicopters as Iraqi Hinds.

"I agree that there were probably a series of events that occurred," Air Force Acting Deputy Chief of Staff Major General Larry Henry told a Senate Armed Services Subcommittee.

"But in the end, in the end, we had a breakdown in visual identification," he said. "That was the end result."

Mr. Perry said last week that investigators must answer a series of questions on whether the airborne warning and control (AWACS) plane in charge of the operation had radio contact with the helicopters as well as the warplanes and whether identification devices were working.

But General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the military Joint Chiefs of Staff, said then that rules of engagement allowed the F-15s to fire when they identified the helicopters as Iraqi Soviet-built Hinds without obtaining permission. Gen. Shalikashvili said the warplanes thought they had identified the U.S. Blackhawk helicopters as Iraqi after making two high speed passes over them.

More U.N. inspectors arrive in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (R) — Two teams of U.N. arms experts have arrived in Baghdad to check Iraq's data and record a baseline for the control of its military industry.

"We are here in Baghdad to verify data which we received in March during high level talks in New York," Horst Reeps, a German army officer leading a seven-member chemical warfare team, told reporters.

A 14-member ballistics missile team under American John Larrabee arrived at the same time, their second visit in two weeks.

"We are back here on the second round of inspections for the baseline survey for the ballistic missile production facilities," Mr. Larrabee said.

U.N. nuclear and biological teams are also in Baghdad, meaning that experts are on the ground for all four types of weapon forbidden to Iraq under the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire terms.

Compliance is the key to easing or lifting U.N. trade sanctions including the blockade of Iraq's oil exports.

Mr. Reeps told reporters the U.N. still lacked documents from the Iraqi side on pre-Gulf war chemical production and imports and the experts were "searching for more proofs to support Iraq's data."

U.N. officials would not give a reason, but Iraq criticises the U.N. Special Commission on Iraq (UNSCOM) and the United Nations in general for delays in lifting the oil embargo, which the U.N. Security Council has linked to compliance on weapons.

For most of the period after the 1990-91 Gulf war, UNSCOM had cited Iraqi obstructionism as the reason for its refusal to certify compliance by Baghdad.

Sahaf in Indonesia
Iraq on Tuesday urged In-

donesia, as chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), to approach the U.N. Security Council to lift the sanctions against Baghdad.

Indonesia said it would seek a timetable for ending sanctions but stopped short of saying it would lobby for their removal.

"We are asking the support of all nations to support a positive event in the Security Council, taken by the majority, in taking a decision to lift the sanctions," Iraqi Foreign Affairs Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf told reporters after meeting President Suharto.

Mr. Sahaf is on four-day visit to Indonesia to deliver a message from President Saddam Hussein on relations between his country and the Security Council.

The U.N. trade embargo, which covers everything except food and medicine, has been in force since just after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said President Suharto had promised to contact NAM's coordination bureau in New York and its caucus in the council and other members to ask when the issue would be settled.

"I think at least we should achieve a clear timetable when this issue can be resolved on the lifting of the embargo if everything has been fulfilled by Iraq," Mr. Alatas said.

Mr. Sahaf said the economic embargo imposed against Iraq was very damaging. "It is unprecedented really in modern times. This is the first time they have blockaded a whole people. Even medicine is difficult to get," Mr. Sahaf said.

Iraqi Health Minister Umeed Madhat Mubarak said last week the death rate for children under five had soared and malnutrition had become a major problem.

2-gunmen case boosted in massacre investigation

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A Muslim worshipper told the inquiry commission into the Hebron mosque massacre Monday that he heard shots fired after Palestinians attacked the Jewish gunman, Baruch Goldstein, indicating the settler may have had at least one accomplice.

The commission has heard testimony indicating the possibility of more than one Jewish settler being involved in the Feb. 25 killing of more than 30 Palestinian worshippers at the Ibrahimi Mosque since it began its hearings seven weeks ago.

"I saw that the man carrying the bag and who was wearing headphones was shooting," said Ahmad Nasser. Previous testimony showed that Goldstein carried a bag and was wearing headphones when he entered the site.

"The worshippers standing behind him attacked him and threw him on the floor and after he fell the shooting continued," said Mr. Nasser.

The Israeli news agency Iam quoted Mr. Nasser as saying that "also after (Goldstein) was killed, shooting continued from a different direction in the mosque. There was a crack in the door into the hall and through it I saw someone shooting at us."

Goldstein was beaten to death by Palestinians after he opened fire with an automatic rifle, killing more than 30 Muslims and wounding dozens more.

Last week hospitals gave medical investigators two types of bullets which Palestinian doctors recovered from victims of the Hebron mosque massacre.

A police ballistics expert has testified that one bullet was found at the site that did not match the Galil automatic rifle used by Goldstein.

Three Palestinians testified before the inquiry commission that is winding up hearings that started seven weeks ago.

Couple taken into custody by Canadian police

NEW YORK (R) — A couple who reported their baby daughter missing in Central Park were being questioned by Canadian police Monday after admitting they dumped the infant's body in a snow-filled Quebec ditch.

Joseph and Helene Bales had tried to convince New York police their 10-week-old daughter Muguet disappeared in Central Park over the weekend. But New York police said Sunday that the couple had confessed the truth and told them where to find the body. Quebec police began questioning the parents at a local precinct Monday. Police will return the couple to Canada, a police spokeswoman said. In statements to New York detectives, the parents said they found the baby dead in her crib on April 8 at their St. Romain, Quebec home. The Quebec coroner said Monday that preliminary investigations were inconclusive and it was not yet able to determine the cause of the infant's death. "The results of the autopsy do not show any external mark of violence. No sign of strangulation. No trace of internal or external haemorrhage nor any trauma," Dr. Jean Brochu said in a statement. "In short, the medical causes of the death remain inexplicable for the moment."

Adventurer sets out to conquer Mount Everest

OSLO (AP) — Making history with his ski treks to the North and South Poles wasn't enough for Norwegian adventurer Erling Kagge. Now he is out to climb to the world's highest point, the top of 8,848 metre high Mount Everest, a place so desolate it is sometimes called "the third pole." Last year, the 31-year-old lawyer became the first person to ever ski alone and unaided to the South Pole. In 1990, he and his friend Borge Ousland were the first team to ski to the North Pole without assistance. No one has skied to both poles and climbed Mount Everest.

"To complete this trilogy, as the first person in history, still seems like a dream to me. In many ways, I am both looking forward to the trip and dreading it," Mr. Kagge said in a statement released Monday. His spokesman, Hans Christen Erlendsen in Oslo, said Mr. Kagge had been in the Himalayas in Nepal since late March, and planned to begin his ascent on May 5 as part of a team. Mr. Erlendsen said Mr. Kagge wanted to keep the expedition quiet until he was sure he could withstand the extreme altitude, but issued a statement after a Norwegian newspaper leaked the plan Monday.

Roseanne Arnold files for divorce

LOS ANGELES (R) — Comedian Roseanne Arnold filed Monday for divorce from her husband Tom Arnold, claiming she was beaten and abused by her spouse. The action followed a shouting match three days ago on the set of Roseanne her highly rated television show. The divorce petition, filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, cited irreconcilable differences and said the couple officially separated Friday. The petition asked for the couple's assets, which reportedly amount to tens of millions of dollars, to be divided by a judge. It also asked that Roseanne Arnold not be required to pay alimony. KNBC Television reported that Mr. Arnold also asked for, and got, a restraining order against her husband. The NBC network affiliate said that in a five-page affidavit supporting her request for a temporary restraining order, Roseanne Arnold said, "I now realise that I have been a classic battered and abused wife... throughout our marriage. The respondent hit me. Struck me. Has thrown objects at me... and verbally abused me." The affidavit also alleged that Tom Arnold had pushed his wife against walls "while he screams and shouts at me, drowning out any possible plea that I might have to make him stop." The affidavit said Roseanne was extremely afraid of her husband and feared for her safety. KNBC reported. Tom Arnold was unavailable for comment Monday.

Al Ahd leader denies dissent among party members

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The secretary general of the Al Ahd Party, Abdul Hadi Majali, denied on Tuesday reports that dissent and resignations based on tribal differences plagued his four-year-old political organisation.

"Our party is not facing any problems with members, nor are there any mass resignations contrary to rumours in the local press," Mr. Majali, a Karak deputy in the Lower House of Parliament, told a press conference.

Mr. Majali said his party had difficulties with "early over-expansion and popularity" of the party. The party now has 10,000 members and supporters, according to Mr. Majali, "but not all members are 'politically' competent party members."

"Many people joined the party because they supported its overall platform. But they mixed their own individual political beliefs and opinions and advertised them as those of the party and this has hurt us a lot," said Mr. Majali.

"Such members had misrepresented the party's position on Jordanian-Palestinian ties," he added.

Recent reports that many Al Ahd members from the Balqa region had resigned due to "tribal conflicts and competition" were "false," according to Mr. Majali.

"We had massive support in the Balqa region. About 200 people joined in one day, then local elections were held there to choose party heads in that governorate. People fought amongst each other and some people handed in their resignations," said Mr. Majali, holding up a folder. "The resigna-

tions are not accepted until the central committee votes on them. That's the whole story," he said.

Mr. Majali insisted that differences were between "individuals and not tribes or clans."

The party's internal structure was changed over in the last three months, Mr. Majali told reporters, to help create more "coherent" policies.

One of the aims of the internal restructuring was to keep "members more consistent and more in line with party policies."

While Mr. Majali did not say that any party members would be dismissed from Al Ahd, he stressed that coordination and party discipline will be instituted. The party, he said, would be very "selective" in choosing its leadership. An 80-member central committee acts as the party's "internal parliament."

"Not every party member is a spokesman. There is only one spokesman of the party, the secretary general," he said.

The changes in the party's internal bi-laws include the formation of 13 committees which formulate and follow up party policies on issues such as health, agriculture, women, Palestine and internal party issues.

Mr. Majali denied and regretted press reports that had labelled the government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali an "Al Ahd government."

"The press hurt our party by printing falsehoods and made the government distance itself from us so as not to give the impression that it indeed is an Al Ahd Party government. Some of our members now feel it is unwise to publicly associate themselves with the party for fear of being labelled ..."

Mr. Majali said. "The very press that called for political party freedoms is now encouraging underground political movement by bashing any positive thing parties do," Mr. Majali added.

Mr. Majali said he and his 20-member coalition in Parliament would lobby to have the Press and Publications Law altered because "there are press violations that the current law does not address."

Mr. Majali said he supported the government's stand "to curb political activities in professional associations and unions."

"As one of the oldest members of a professional association in Jordan I say let the professional associations worry about professional issues and (let) political parties (worry) about political issues," Mr. Majali said.

Hamas ready to deal with pre-1967 Israel

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has said in published comments that Hamas was ready to make peace if Israel withdrew from the territories it occupied in the 1967 war, removed all settlements and compensated Palestinians for the losses they suffered during the occupation.

The comments, carried by Al Sabeel, mouthpiece of Jordan's Islamic Action Front (IAF) party, marked the first time a top leader of Hamas has went on the record to scale down the group's advocacy for an elimination of the state of Israel and the creation of a puritan Islamic state in the entire area of pre-1948 Palestine.

They also came against a backdrop of an Israeli crackdown on Hamas activists in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and waning Palestinian support for the Sept. 13 autonomy agreement signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The comments also appeared designed to entice middle-of-the-road Palestinians disappointed with the stalled implementation of the autonomy accord by projecting Hamas as an alternative leadership ready to negotiate with Israel with the goal set

as the Jewish state's unconditional withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967.

Al Sabeel quoted Musa Abu Marzuq, head of the political office of Hamas, as saying: "If the enemy government wants a way out of this crisis, then we say that the way out is not through imposing surrender on the Palestinian people."

"There could be a peace treaty and a way out of this complicated regional situation," the Damascus-based Abu Marzuq was quoted as saying.

Noting that U.N. resolutions consider the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Jerusalem as occupied territories "owned and lived on by the Palestinian people," Mr. Abu Marzuq called for: "A total Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Jerusalem."

"Removal of all (Jewish) settlements from the occupied territories and 'Compensation for the losses Palestinians suffered during the occupation'."

Following the Israeli withdrawal, Mr. Abu Marzuq said, there should be "free elections in which the Palestinian people would elect their leadership, which will reflect their aspirations and determine the future of the conflict."

Although apparently left deliberately ambiguous, the

comments were interpreted by analysts to mean that the elected leadership would be empowered to negotiate a peace agreement with Israel, something that Hamas has ruled out until now.

If Hamas emerges as the victor in the elections, "it would have a clear position vis-a-vis the struggle of the Palestinian people," Mr. Abu Marzuq was quoted as saying. "If Hamas becomes a minority, it will express its free will, and it will respect the opinion of the elected majority."

He described the Israeli-PLO autonomy negotiations as unhealthy for the Palestinian people and said the PLO, by agreeing to autonomy, had made it clear that "only an elected leadership has the right to offer a solution to the problem."

"The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) does not represent all the people of Palestine," added Mr. Abu Marzuq, whose group claims to have the support of as much as 40 per cent of the two million Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

Asked whether the proposal was a "political initiative," Mr. Abu Marzuq was quoted as replying: "It is a political initiative if you want to call it that. It is also the viewpoint of the (Hamas) movement if you want to call it that."

In the interview, Mr. Abu Marzuq justified the two suicide attacks which killed 12 Israelis within the green line (pre-1967 borders of Israel) this month. He said Hamas' military wing, Izzedine Al Qassam Brigades, was forced into carrying out the attacks after "Israeli troops killed our children, women and old men and did not stop settlers from committing inhuman practices that reached the level of killing tens of our sons at the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron."

"They carried out further massacres, imposed curfews on the victims of the massacres and let the wolves free to roam our land, killing our sons," he said.

"Our right to resist (the occupier) is enshrined in international law," said Mr. Abu Marzuq. "If the enemy soldiers and settlers stop killing our people and the Al Qassam Brigades then we will adhere to our policy of limiting our actions to resistance only."

In a leaflet issued in the occupied territories on Saturday, shortly after His Majesty King Hussein had status in Jordan, the group offered to stop further attacks on Israelis if the Israeli army and settlers stopped assaulting Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The Hamas leader said his

group's members in Jordan were not party to planning or carrying out attacks in the occupied territories and respected Jordanian laws and regulations. "The Jordanian government understands our position very clearly," he told Al Sabeel.

He described Jordan's response to implied Israeli threats against Jordan as "very strong since it emanates from a true position."

Mr. Abu Marzuq said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was trying to deflect attention from "his failure to handle Hamas" by accusing foreign countries of supporting the group as he did in the case of Jordan.

He noted that Israel had also accused the U.S. of supporting Hamas. He was apparently referring to the cases involving some Americans of Arab origin who were accused of financing Hamas.

In conclusion, Mr. Abu Marzuq said Hamas was committed to resist Israel as long as the Jewish state occupied Palestinian lands, that it would not be deterred by Israeli "attempts to create problems among our brethren," and that the group would use various means within the occupied territories — leaflets, loudspeakers and graffiti as well as contacts with international news agencies — to propagate its cause.